

VICE-PRESIDENT TO VISIT RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH ON 21ST JANUARY, 2025

Chennai, 21 January 2025: The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar will be on a one-day tour to Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 21st January, 2025.

During his visit, the Vice-President will preside over an

interactive session with the students of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur on the theme "Ideas for building Better Bharat."



JAISHANKAR MEETS JAPAN, AUS FMS

Chennai, 21 January 2025: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is in Washington for the inauguration of

Donald Trump as the 47th President of the USA, met with two of his Quad colleagues - Japanese Foreign

Minister Takeshi Iwaya, and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong.

Amid reports of a meeting to be held of the

Quad Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of the Presidential inauguration, EAM Jaishankar posted on X of his meetings: "Good to meet with FM Takeshi Iwaya of Japan.

"Reviewed the progress in our bilateral cooperation. Also discussed developments pertaining to Quad." "Delighted to meet FM @SenatorWong, a Quad colleague, in Washington DC today. "As always, enjoyed our discussion on the state of the world." The US nominee for Secretary of State is Marco Rubio. There is no official word on the meeting as yet



MAKKALUDAN MUDHALVAR SCHEME RESOLVES 12.8 LAKH PETITIONS

Chennai, 21 January 2025: Under the "Makkaludan Mudhalvar" (Chief Minister with the People) initiative, 12.8 lakh petitions have been resolved within a single year, according to Minister K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran.



In a statement released by the minister, he highlighted that the Dravidian Model government has achieved a remarkable milestone by resolving these petitions and bringing government services directly to the people.

The "Makkaludan Mudhalvar" scheme was launched by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on December 18, 2023, with the goal of transforming public service delivery by eliminating the need for

citizens to visit government offices. Instead, the scheme aims to deliver essential services directly to their doorsteps.

Through this initiative, services from 15 government departments have been integrated, offering 44 key public services, including patta transfers and applications for senior citizen benefits. The scheme ensures that petitions received from the public are resolved within 30 days, with government services

being delivered directly to people's homes.

Since its inception, 2,058 camps were organized in urban areas during the initial phase, where 9.05 lakh petitions were received and resolved. Encouraged by the positive reception from urban residents, the scheme was expanded to rural areas, where 2,344 camps have been conducted so far across 12,525 village panchayats. These camps have addressed 12.8 lakh petitions to

date.

The initiative has garnered widespread appreciation from the public in just one year, showcasing the Dravidian Model government's commitment to being a people-centric and service-oriented administration. The "Makkaludan Mudhalvar" scheme stands as a testament to this vision, bringing governance closer to the people under the guidance of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

VIJAY MEETS PROTESTORS OF PARUNDUR AIRPORT

Chennai, 21The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay met the villagers protesting against the move to set up a new airport in Parandur in Ekanapuram. TVK functionaries, Vijay fans, and villagers have gathered at the venue in large numbers.

Vijay left his Neelankarai residence this morning to interact with the protesters, who have been agitating against the airport project for more than 900 days.

N Anand, the general secretary of TVK, told the media that Vijay's sole objective is to meet with the affected people at Ekanapuram. The

meeting was initially planned to be held at Ambedkar Thidal in Ekanapuram. However, due to overnight rain and restrictions imposed by the Kancheepuram police, the venue was shifted to the wedding hall.

The proposed greenfield airport at Parandur has become a contentious issue, with local residents and farmers expressing

concerns over the project's potential environmental and social impacts. The villagers argue that the project, which requires the acquisition of 5,746 acres across 20 villages, will destroy fertile agricultural land and eco-sensitive water bodies, threatening their livelihoods. Residents of Ekanapuram, one of the largest affected villages, have been at

the forefront of the protests. They have boycotted gram sabha meetings, and elections, and have even passed resolutions demanding the project's cancellation. The Union government announced Parandur as the airport site in August 2022, and the project is expected to be completed by 2028. However, opposition to the airport has been growing steadily.



MEASURES TAKEN BY INDIAN RAILWAYS TO CURB ILLEGAL TOUTING

Chennai Jan 21, 2025: The persistent issue of ticket touting and black marketing in Indian Railways ticketing system represents a substantial challenge, particularly during peak travel periods. These illicit activities not only compromise the equitable access to tickets for legitimate passengers but also undermine public confidence in the railway system.

In response, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has implemented a comprehensive and multi-faceted strategy to address this problem and to ensure fair access to railway services.

Initiatives by the RPF : 1. Regular Raids and Crackdowns The RPF's Cyber cells meticulously examine booking patterns to identify anomalies and conduct pinpointed operations targeting ticket counters and cybercafés.

These proactive measures have resulted in the confiscation of unauthorized tickets and the apprehension of numerous touts, significantly disrupting their illicit revenue generational sources.

2. Digital Surveillance - Utilizing advanced technological tools, the RPF conducts continuous surveillance of online booking platforms. By monitoring suspicious activities, including bulk bookings and irregular transactions, and deploying CCTV at

ticket counters, the RPF strengthens its capacity to detect and prevent black marketing effectively.

3. Collaboration with IRCTC - The RPF collaborates closely with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to identify and deactivate suspicious accounts. This collaborative initiative seeks to prevent the misuse of both agent and personal user IDs, thereby ensuring a more secure and transparent ticketing system.

4. Awareness Campaigns - Acknowledging the importance of public awareness, the RPF conducts educational campaigns across various media platforms. These initiatives inform passengers about reporting unauthorized activities and emphasize the significance of booking tickets through official and authorized channels.

5. Technology Integration - The RPF has equipped its Cyber cells with state-of-the-art software and hardware to track and dismantle ticketing syndicates effectively. This technological advancement enables the force to counter increasingly sophisticated touting networks.

6. Legal Recourse - Offenders engaged in ticket touting face severe penalties under the Railways Act, including imprisonment. Recent

judicial rulings have highlighted the gravity of the issue by categorizing ticket touting as a "social crime."

Impact of the RPF's Efforts - The strategic initiatives undertaken by the RPF have yielded significant results. Numerous high-profile touting syndicates have been dismantled, and thousands of offenders have been apprehended. These efforts have led to the recovery of large quantities of illegal tickets, thereby curbing large-scale black marketing and restoring public confidence in the railway system.

To further enhance its effectiveness, the RPF plans to integrate advanced technologies and predictive measures into its operations. Key focus areas include:

1. Advanced AI and Machine Learning - (a) Behavioral Pattern Analysis: AI systems will scrutinize booking behaviors to identify anomalies indicative of touting activities.

1(b) Real-Time Fraud Detection: Machine learning algorithms will detect and halt suspicious transactions in real time.

1 (c) Dynamic IP Monitoring: Systems will identify and block multiple bookings originating from the same IP address or utilizing VPNs.

2. Biometric Verification - 2(a) Facial Recognition: Linking ticket bookings to biometric data will ensure passenger

verification during inspections.

2(b) Fingerprint Scanning: Mandatory biometric authentication at booking counters will enhance the authenticity of transactions.

3. Cloud Computing and Big Data Analytics - 3(a) Real-Time Data Processing: Cloud-based systems will facilitate the instantaneous analysis of ticketing data to identify suspicious trends.

3(b) Predictive Analysis: Historical data will be utilized to implement targeted preventive measures for routes and travel seasons particularly vulnerable to touting activities.

The Railway Protection Force's robust and comprehensive approach to addressing ticket touting underscores its unwavering commitment to fairness and transparency in railway ticketing operations. By leveraging advanced technologies, fostering collaboration with relevant agencies, and engaging the public, the RPF continues to play a pivotal role in mitigating black marketing. As these strategies evolve, they promise a more secure and equitable railway system, ensuring a seamless and fair travel experience for all passengers.

In the year 2024, all over India, a total of 4725 Illegal Touting cases were registered in which 4975 illegal touts were arrested with the

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 11, SOUTH PERUMAL KOIL STREET, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI - 600 026.
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TATA MOTORS UNVEILS 'FUTURE OF MOBILITY' WITH NEW BENCHMARKS IN INNOVATION, CONNECTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Chennai, 21 January 2025: On the opening day of the prestigious Bharat Mobility Global Expo (Auto Expo) 2025, Tata Motors, India's largest auto and mobility solutions company, unveiled a bold array of ultra-modern vehicles, cutting-edge concepts, advanced aggregates and intelligent digital solutions. With the biggest display of over 50 exhibits, Tata Motors showcased its vision for transforming every segment of personal mobility and commercial transportation. From compact cars and powerful SUVs to nimble mini trucks and rugged heavy-duty carriers; Tata Motors presented its next gen, green mobility solutions, designed to elevate safety, deliver exceptional performance, and redefine customer experience. These stunning exhibits are on display up to 22 January 2025, in Hall No.1 at the Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi.

Tata Motors has



brought its vision of the future to life by seamlessly combining its legacy of engineering excellence and deep-rooted passion for 'Made in India for the World' with cutting-edge human-centric design and smart, new age technologies.

Speaking about Tata Motors' expansive display of future ready vehicles, advanced concepts and intelligent solutions, Mr. N Chandrasekaran, Executive Chairman, Tata Sons and Chairman, Tata Motors said: "For eight decades, Tata Motors has been at the forefront of shaping the future of mobility,

pioneering advancements in safety, design, connectivity, and sustainability. Our relentless pursuit of excellence is fueled by a deep commitment to creating value for customers, communities, and our nation. The rapid shift toward green energy and mobility, an irreversible global megatrend, has made the need for clean, zero-emission vehicles more urgent than ever. We are leading this revolution in India with smart, holistic solutions delivering exceptional performance, reliability, and convenience. Our customers have ready access to an expansive

range of cleaner, greener mobility options for both personal and commercial use.

At the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, we are proud to unveil more than 50 next-generation vehicles, visionary concepts, and intelligent solutions that redefine the future of mobility across segments and applications. Rooted in our legacy of trust, innovation, and responsibility, we will continue to lead the way—creating value for customers, driving the automotive industry and advancing our progress with purpose and determination"

CUMMINS LAUNCHES HELM™ ENGINE PLATFORMS AND ADVANCED POWER SOLUTIONS AT BHARAT MOBILITY

Chennai, 21 January 2025: Today at Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, Cummins Group in India ("Cummins"), a leading power technology provider, announced the launch of its next generation HELM™ (Higher Efficiency, Lower Emissions, Multiple fuels) engine platforms, with the high performance L10 engine, along with, an advanced Hydrogen Fuel Delivery System (FDS) with Type IV on-vehicle storage vessels and the innovative B6.7N natural gas engine.

Showcased within an integrated powertrain concept, these launches underscore the group's deep understanding of the Indian Commercial Vehicle (CV) market and its commitment to addressing current demands and future environmental requirements.

Cummins HELM™ platforms represent the company's forward thinking-approach to engine technology, prioritizing performance, efficiency, and sustainability. The platforms deliver advanced internal combustion engine technology with fuel-type flexibility, enabling customers to choose from advanced diesel, natural gas, or hydrogen

variants, to meet their diverse operational needs and sustainability goals.

Designed to meet evolving environmental standards, the platform utilizes a common base to deliver multiple engine versions, each optimized for a single fuel type. Cummins HELM™ platforms empower customers to achieve their sustainability goals.

Next-generation L10 engine: Built on the 10-liter Cummins HELM™ platform, this high-performance engine supports faster logistics, improved productivity and reduced emissions.

This new-generation platform not only meets BSVI emissions standards but will form the base for future BSVII and Euro 7 capable engines for the Indian market. The clean sheet design underscores Cummins' technical expertise and

leadership in delivering solutions that meet current regulations, while being adaptable to future needs.

Fuel Delivery System (FDS): An advanced 350-bar and 700-bar hydrogen fuel delivery system, with Type IV on-vehicle storage vessels. The system marks a major step in progressing India's hydrogen economy. The FDS facilitates on-vehicle hydrogen fuel storage, addressing a key challenge in the adoption of hydrogen powered commercial Vehicles.

B6.7N Natural Gas Engine: Designed to provide diesel-equivalent performance with lower carbon emissions, the innovative B6.7N natural gas engine facilitates the adoption of CNG and LNG fuels in heavy-duty vehicles. The B6.7N reflects

Cummins' commitment to offer solutions that help its customers navigate the energy transition without compromising operational costs, reliability or operational efficiency for fleets.

At its state-of-the-art pavilion in Hall 2, Booth 2, in Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, Cummins is showcasing the widest array of low and zero emission technologies for the CV industry. The display features advanced engines seamlessly integrated with next-generation components such as aftertreatment systems, automated manual transmission, axles and power electronics, all optimized for high power efficiency. Interactive exhibits at the booth offer insights into Cummins' advanced technologies and their transformative impact on the transportation ecosystem.



WHERE TRADITION MEETS MODERNITY: FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON CHENNAI VELACHERY OPENS ITS DOORS IN THE HEART OF CHENNAI IN COLLABORATION WITH KRISHNA GROUP

Chennai, 21 January 2025: Four Points by Sheraton, part of Marriott Bonvoy's global portfolio of over 30 extraordinary hotel brands, announced the opening of Four Points by Sheraton Chennai Velachery. Nestled in one of Chennai's most dynamic neighbourhoods, the hotel is designed to cater to both business and leisure travellers, offering a memorable experience with a thoughtful blend of cultural inspiration and uncomplicated comfort.

Strategically located just 10 kms from Chennai International Airport and 8 kms from the city centre, the hotel sits at the crossroads of the bustling Velachery district and the OMR Business Corridor. This ideal location offers easy access to Chennai's IT hubs, shopping districts, and cultural landmarks, making it an excellent choice for those looking to explore the vibrant spirit of the city.

Chennai is a melting pot of cultures and a gateway to exploring South India. Known as the UNESCO Creative City of Music, Chennai is home to the legacy of Carnatic music and vibrant festivals like the Margazhi season. It is most popular amongst travellers for its diverse culinary offerings, historic temples and colonial architecture, beautifully blending ancient traditions with modern urban development. Whether it's indulgence in authentic Chettinad cuisine or uncovering cultural music and dance or exploring the city's iconic historical landmarks, Four Points by Sheraton Chennai Velachery will offer vibrancy, warmth, and elegance that Chennai is known for, making



every visit truly special.

"We are delighted to announce the opening of Four Points by Sheraton brand in Chennai's vibrant neighbourhood of Velachery," said Ranju Alex, Area Vice President, South Asia, Marriott International. "We are on a steady growth path in the country and this new addition in Chennai is a testament to our momentum and dedication to offering exceptional hospitality experiences, tailored to modern travellers. Strategically located near key business hubs and cultural landmarks, the hotel combines Four Points' signature comfort and reliability with the energy of Chennai, making it a perfect choice for both business and leisure guests"

Marriott International launches this hotel in collaboration with the Krishna Group. "We are elated to join forces with Marriott International on our inaugural venture into the hotel industry. We eagerly anticipate expanding our footprints with Marriott, delivering unparalleled hospitality experiences to our esteemed guests", stated Mr. Krishna Reddy, Managing Director of Krishna Group. This marks a

pivotal milestone for Mr. Reddy as he embarks on his first foray into the hotel industry following a distinguished 40-year career in real estate.

Four Points by Sheraton Chennai Velachery features 106 elegantly designed rooms, each thoughtfully crafted to provide comfort and functionality. Guests can unwind with views of the lively Velachery streets or the peaceful OMR skyline. Every room is equipped with state-of-the-art amenities such as integrated USB ports and complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi including the signature Four Points comfort bed, ensuring a seamless and memorable stay. Guests can experience Chennai's essence through the hotel's interiors, inspired by the city's vibrant heritage. Each room features artwork reflecting Chennai's modernity and dynamic spirit, blending tradition with contemporary flair. This integration of local art enhances the ambiance and offers a deep cultural connection.

The hotel offers two exceptional dining venues, showcasing flavours that celebrate both global and local culinary traditions: Sage & Salt, a vibrant all-day

dining restaurant featuring international dishes and The Liquid Library, a sophisticated bar offering curated cocktails, fine wines, and the signature Best Brews™ program, featuring locally crafted beers. The hotel is designed to meet the needs of modern travellers featuring a rooftop pool and a 24-hour fitness centre for rest and rejuvenation. The meetings and banquet space comprise a generous 438 sq meters, making it apt for intimate weddings, conferences, and social gatherings.

"The opening of Four Points by Sheraton Chennai Velachery marks an exciting milestone as we bring our brand's renowned hospitality and thoughtfully designed spaces to this vibrant city," said Sujith Chandrasekhar, Hotel Manager, Four Points by Sheraton Chennai Velachery. "We aim to build an address of preference, where guests can immerse themselves in the dynamic culture of Chennai while we provide them with everything they need as they rest, relax and enjoy the modern comforts and welcoming service that defines the Four Points brand".

NETTLINX LTD. REPORTS ROBUST EARNINGS FOR Q3FY25, PAT JUMPS 470.9% YOY

Chennai, 21 January 2025: Nettlinx Ltd. provides a comprehensive suite of network solutions, including Internet services, Network Management, Data Center and Co-Location Services and Enterprise Mailing Solutions. Its primary revenue comes from business IT services, which encompass software development, consulting, & implementation. Nettlinx Ltd provides B2B dedicated Internet

Leased Lines (1:1) through a network built on world class technology. Provides advanced Managed Network Services to enterprises in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh. It Operates through a direct presence in over 93 locations.

In its board meeting held on Friday 17 January, 2025, has approved the unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2024.

For quarter three ended 31 December



2024, revenue from operations grew by 40.5% from Rs. 637.8 Lakhs in Q3FY24 to Rs. 896.3 Lakhs in Q3FY25. EBITDA increased by 20.4% from Rs. 225.8 Lakhs in Q3FY24 to Rs. 271.8 Lakhs in Q3FY25. EBITDA margins decreased by 510 bps from 35.4% in Q3FY24 to 30.3% in Q3FY25. PAT increased by 470.9% from Rs.117.5 Lakhs in Q3FY24 to Rs. 671.0 Lakhs in Q3FY25. PAT margin improved by 5,650 bps in Q3FY25.

BABYSHOP LAUNCHES IN INDIA: BRINGING 50 YEARS OF GLOBAL EXPERTISE TO FAMILIES

Chennai Jan 21, 2025: Babyshop, part of the renowned Dubai based Landmark Group and a trusted global leader in children's essentials, has officially entered the Indian market with the launch of its flagship store at Express Avenue Mall, Chennai. With over 50 years of expertise, Babyshop operates 250+ stores across 14 countries, serving over 10 crore families worldwide. This milestone marks the beginning of Babyshop's journey in India, bringing a legacy of trust, quality, and care to Indian parents. The launch event was further elevated by the presence of renowned Indian actress Soha Ali Khan, who added her star power to the celebration.

Babyshop stores are designed as one-stop destinations for parents, catering to children from newborns to 10 years old. Across all its stores, Babyshop offers a thoughtfully curated range of baby essentials, kids' fashion, travel gear, nursery furniture, and toys. Combining global trends with local relevance, Babyshop provides products that resonate with modern families while delivering a seamless and enjoyable shopping experience.

"India represents an exciting new chapter for Babyshop, and we are thrilled to bring our trusted brand to this vibrant market,"



carefully curated RubanShanmugarajah, CEO of Babyshop. "For over five decades, Babyshop has supported parents across 14 countries, helping them navigate the joys and challenges of raising children. Now, we are proud to bring this legacy of trust and expertise to Indian families. Parenting is a journey filled with important choices and meaningful moments, and our goal is to be a trusted partner in making it simpler, more convenient, and more rewarding."

Elevating the Parenting Experience in India

At Babyshop, every detail of the shopping experience is thoughtfully designed to make parenting simpler, more enjoyable, and more informed. All our stores bring together a comprehensive range of products, from newborn essentials to kids' fashion, travel gear, nursery furniture, and toys, all under one roof. Featuring globally trusted brands like Philips, Chicco, Sebamed, Joie, Lego, and others alongside

collections, Babyshop ensures that parents have access to the very best for every stage of their child's growth, from birth to 10 years old.

A hallmark of the store is its My Baby Expert service, where trained and knowledgeable staff provide personalized guidance, helping parents navigate important decisions with confidence and care. Whether it's selecting the right car seat or choosing nursery furniture, the expert team is dedicated to supporting parents every step of the way. Additionally, the flagship store introduces a Stroller testing track, offering parents the unique opportunity to test strollers in a simulated real-life environment before making a purchase. Facilities like a Mother's Room provide a warm, private space for nursing mothers, reflecting Babyshop's deep understanding of the needs of modern families.

"The core DNA of Babyshop lies in delivering a seamless

shopping experience for families, whether in-store or online. With the flagship store, we have carefully designed a space that brings together innovative services like the Stroller Testing Track and the personalized My Baby Expert assistance, while offering a wide range of globally trusted products. This holistic approach reflects our commitment to understanding the parenting needs of Indian families," said Dheeraj Chawla, Business Head, Babyshop India. "Additionally, our robust omni-channel presence ensures that every family, from metros to Tier 3 cities, can access the quality and care that Babyshop stands for."

The store layout prioritizes ease and comfort, offering parents a seamless, family-friendly experience. From preparing for a first baby to finding practical solutions for a growing family, Babyshop combines thoughtful design with exceptional value to support every stage of parenting.

KURKURE® AND CHING'S SECRET SET THE STAGE FOR SNACKING INNOVATION WITH THE LAUNCH OF A BOLD NEW SCHEZWAN CHUTNEY FLAVOURED KURKURE®

Chennai Jan 21, 2025: Kurkure®, the beloved snack enjoyed by Indian households for over 25 years, has teamed up with Ching's Secret, one of India's leading desi Chinese brands, to bring out the exciting Schezwan Chutney flavour. The result? A delicious burst of taste that's as exciting as it is irresistible, blending the best of both worlds.

Indian-Chinese cuisine, known for its bold and spicy flavours, has long been a favourite across the country. Inspired by this shared love, Kurkure® and Ching's Secret have created a snack that's both adventurous and deeply familiar, crafted to delight fans of both brands while redefining fusion snacking in India. Aastha Bhasin, Marketing Director Kurkure® & Doritos, PepsiCo India, said: "PepsiCo India is excited to partner with Tata Consumer Products' Ching's Secret for this milestone collaboration. Kurkure® has always led the way in introducing trendsetting innovations within the snacking category, and this

partnership underscores our commitment to delivering flavours that truly connect with evolving consumer preferences. With fusion flavours becoming increasingly popular, this collaboration brings together Kurkure's® crunchy, masalaedar magic with the fiery and tangy kick of Ching's Schezwan Chutney to create a truly unique Desi Chinese snacking experience. Together, this collaboration brings two well-loved brands in their categories to celebrate a snacking innovation that blends flavours enjoyed by consumers across India."

Deepika Bhan, President, Packaged Foods, Tata Consumer Products, said: "We are thrilled about this maverick collaboration between two iconic chatpatamasalaedar brands Ching's and Kurkure®. Kurkure® has always delighted consumers with its crunch and trendsetting flavours, making it the perfect match for Ching's, a brand synonymous with Desi Chinese.

Together, they bring to life a fusion that



seamlessly blends the zesty notes of Ching's Schezwan Chutney tadka with Kurkure's signature masala profile. This collaboration is set to surprise and delight consumers, promising an unforgettable sensory adventure."

This collaboration marks a significant landmark in the snacking industry by uniting two distinctly Indian brands, Kurkure® and Ching's Secret, whose shared ethos of bold, authentic, and flavoursome snacks resonates deeply with the

evolving Indian consumer. Crafted for existing Kurkure® enthusiasts and fans of desi Chinese flavours, the new product offers an innovative twist on a classic combination and is set to be a hit with those who enjoy spicy snacks.

Available across all markets and channels in INR 5, INR 10, and INR 20 packs, the launch will be supported by an extensive media plan across TV, digital, and print channels, featuring a high-impact TV C...

A.M. JAIN COLLEGE LAUNCHES STATE-OF-THE ART NALANDA LIBRARY AND HOSTS BOOK REVIEW OF "2024: THE ELECTION THAT SURPRISED INDIA" AUTHORED BY RAJDEEPSARDESAI

Chennai, Jan 21 2025 : A.M. Jain College, a leading institution in Chennai dedicated to academic excellence, soft launched the college's Nalanda Library, a state-of-the-art facility designed to serve as a hub of knowledge. Nalanda Library Hosted the book review of the renowned journalist and author Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai's latest release '2024: The Election that Surprised India'. The library is equipped with an extensive collection of books, digital resources and dedicated study spaces, providing students and faculty with an enriching environment for learning and research. The event was graced by distinguished personalities, including Shri. R. Ganapathi (Former President - SICCI), member of the advisory council of the institution Shri. K.S. Sripathi, (Former Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu), Dr. Krishna Balasubramaniam (Professor, IIT Madras) and Mr.



Jayaramakrishnan (Managing Director, MITRAA). Shri. Mahendra Dadha, Joint Secretary of the Sri S.S. Jain Educational Society graced the function and felicitated the Chief Guest.

Mr. T.M. Veeraraghav, during the interaction with Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai, shared their extensive experience covering elections, combining journalistic expertise. Students interacted and greatly benefited from the enlightening and stimulating discussion.

Commenting on the event, Mr. Ushan Kumar Chordia, Secretary of A.M. Jain College, said, "We always prioritise

enhancing knowledge for our students. We are happy that our knowledge hub and state-of-the-art Nalanda Library was soft-launched by media tycoons Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai and Mr. T.M. Veeraraghav. This event also provided a platform for our students to interact with media legends and spark their curiosity. The launch of the Nalanda Library stands as a testament to A.M. Jain College's vision of creating a

vibrant academic ecosystem that empowers its students to achieve their full potential"

The Book Review and talk session further strengthened A.M. Jain College's reputation as a hub for academic and cultural activities.

The college remains committed to organizing events that inspire and empower its students, fostering a holistic and dynamic learning environment.

SRMIST BALL BADMINTON MEN TEAM WON BACK-TO-BACK GOLD MEDALS IN THE ALL INDIA LEVEL AND STATE LEVEL BALL BADMINTON MEN TOURNAMENT-REG

Chennai Jan 21, 2025: Our SRMIST Ball Badminton Men team won back-to-back gold medals in the All India Level and State Level One Senior Men's Ball Badminton Tournaments held at Palukur and Panruti from January 15th

to 16th and January 18th to 19th, 2025.

All India Level Two Senior, Palukur, AP Match Results: Super League Match: SRMIST Beat VSA, Salem - Score: (37-35, 35-30).

SRMIST Beat

Palukur, Andhra Pradesh - Score: (35-18, 35-21).

SRMIST Beat South Central Railways, Guntur - Score: (35-30, 35-31).

SRMIST Beat Western Railways, Mumbai - Score: (30-35, 35-31, 35-31).

Final Standings: Winners - SRMIST, Chennai. Runners - South Central Railways, Guntur. Third - Western Railways, Mumbai.

State Level One Senior, Panruti, TN Match Results: League Match: SRMIST Beat Panruti Club - Score: (35-16, 35-15). SRMIST Beat BMD, Parangipattai - Score: (38-39, 35-31, 35-21). SRMIST Beat A.R. Hospital, Dindigul - Score: (35-21, 35-33). SRMIST Beat Loyola College, Chennai - Score: (31-35, 36-34, 35-31).

Final Standings: Winners - SRMIST, Chennai. Runners - Loyola College, Chennai. Third - A.R. Hospital, Dindigul.



WALMART UNVEILS NEW INNOVATION PILOTS WITH INDIAN STARTUPS TO HELP ENHANCE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

Chennai, 21 January 2025: Walmart, the world's largest omnichannel retailer, today announced strategic pilots with India-based startups to provide solutions for the company's U.S. supply chain and sourcing operations.

The three startups selected for pilot programs include Pune-based KBCols Sciences, Chennai-based GreenPod Labs, and Bengaluru-based Cropin. These companies participated in the Walmart Growth Summit last year.

Solutions from each will help drive innovation at scale across Walmart's supply chains. The pilot programs will test solutions that augment the availability of better and more fresh products for Walmart's consumers in the U.S. and around the world, reduce product waste, and create sustainable alternatives for intermediate products used in manufacturing processes such as synthetic textile dyes to reduce environmental impact.

Here are innovative solutions piloted by each startup: Textile dyes made from agricultural waste] KBCols Sciences, based in Pune, India, manufactures non-GMO natural dyes by fermenting microbes from agricultural waste across India. These natural dyes can be used for various textiles, promoting more efficient manufacturing by reducing water and energy usage in the dying process. As a more sustainable alternative to synthetic dyes, this innovation paves the way for more regenerative methods in mass-produced clothing. The pilot will evaluate KBCol's dyes and their properties, testing them on woven materials and jersey cotton.

[Extending freshness for natural produce] GreenPod Labs,



a Chennai-based company, produces small sachets filled with plant extracts that activate the natural defense mechanisms of fruits and vegetables, slowing down ripening and mimicking the state when it is still on the vine. This extends travel times in the supply chain, enabling produce to stay fresh longer. This innovation has the potential to unlock new sourcing geographies for Walmart, enable cost-effective shipping, and improve quality & freshness for customers. In collaboration with UC Davis, Walmart will pilot GreenPod sachets to evaluate their effectiveness.

AI-driven crop yield insight platform] Cropin, based in Bengaluru, India, offers an AI-driven AgTech platform that provides valuable insights into crop yields, enhancing productivity, optimizing resource use, and ensuring consistent harvest quality. The pilot will test this technology on the produce supply chains to gain a deeper understanding of yield estimations, crop health, and seasonal transition timing. Improved data accuracy can help Walmart source perishable commodities more effectively, potentially improving quality and availability for customers while reducing waste. This pilot launches in collaboration with Walmart Global Tech's Sparkubate program, empowering start-up

innovators to scale their ideas and tackle the most pressing challenges in retail.

Tech innovation is what drives real-world solutions to move forward a globally resilient supply chain. By collaborating with global innovators, we're leveraging fresh ideas to build a more resilient supply network. said Kyle Carlyle, Vice President, Sourcing Innovation & Surety of Supply, Walmart. "As a people-led, tech-powered company, we are always looking for new ways to innovate. These three brands demonstrate our innovation goals across both the food and textile industry."

The Walmart Growth Summit in India is part of a global series designed to connect entrepreneurs, suppliers, and innovators with Walmart's extensive supply chain network. Held in countries like India, Mexico, and Chile, these summits provide a platform for participants to present technologies and solutions that align with Walmart's focus on sustainability, efficiency, and innovation. Through one-on-one pitch sessions and educational discussions, entrepreneurs can showcase their products and explore opportunities to scale within Walmart's global supply chain.

The collaboration between KBCols Sciences and Walmart marks a pivotal step towards transforming the textile industry with more

sustainable dyeing solutions, says Dr. Vaishali Kulkarni, CEO, KBCols Sciences. "This project reflects our shared commitment to addressing environmental challenges while delivering high-quality, more responsibly-produced products, supporting a future where fashion and sustainability coexist harmoniously."

Deepak Rajmohan, CEO, GreenPod Labs shares, "Engaging with Walmart during the Walmart Growth Summit India and progressing towards a product pilot has been a great experience for our team. Working with a global player like Walmart revalidates the importance of our work in reducing fruits and vegetables post-harvest losses/ quality degradation. It's been a great learning experience to interact with the sourcing and innovation team to understand the current challenges."

At Cropin, we leverage next-generation technologies, from climate models to AI-driven solutions, to tackle these challenges head-on, says Krishna Kumar, CEO of Cropin. By working with Walmart, a leader in tech-driven transformation, we aim to build resilient and sustainable food systems. Together, we are committed to redefining sourcing strategies amidst evolving climate scenarios, ensuring a more reliable and secure future for the agri-food industry. These latest pilot programs build upon a portfolio of innovation work including collaborations with Agritask, unspun, and R ubi Laboratories. Sourcing innovation pilots are designed to help Walmart make more informed sourcing decisions, enhance resource efficiency, and drive measurable progress toward a more resilient global supply chain.

VERITAS FINANCE LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI FOR AN IPO

Chennai Jan 21, 2025 : Veritas Finance Limited, a retail focused non-deposit taking NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"), and under the scale-based regulations of the RBI, classified as an 'NBFC-Middle Layer', has filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

As a diversified, retail-focused NBFC, it primarily provides small business loans to micro, small and medium enterprises ("MSMEs") and self-employed individuals, and over the years, has expanded its business to include home loans and used commercial vehicle loans. The public offer aggregating up to Rs. 2,800 crore comprises of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 600 crore ("THE FRESH ISSUE") and an offer for sale of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 2,200 crore by the Selling Shareholders ("OFFER FOR SALE") with a face value of ₹10 each per equity share.

The public offer includes a reservation of equity shares for subscription by Eligible employees ("EMPLOYEE

RESERVATION PORTION").

The company proposes to utilize the net proceeds towards augmenting their capital base to meet future business requirements of the company towards onward lending.

The Offer for Sale of up to Rs 2,200 crore comprises of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 550 crore by Norwest Venture Partners X Mauritius; up to Rs. 550 crore by Kedaara Capital Fund II LLP; up to Rs. 500 crore by British International Investment plc; up to Rs. 425 crore by Lok Capital Growth Fund; up to Rs. 75 crore by Growth Catalyst Partners LLC (Collectively Referred to as the "Investor Selling Shareholders") and equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 36 crore by Vidya Arulmany; up to Rs. 21 crore by P. Surendra Pai; up to Rs. 21 crore by Savita S. Pai; up to Rs. 14 crore by Sheela Pai Cole and up to Rs. 8 crore by Moneisha Sharaad Gandhi (Collectively The "Individual Selling Shareholder" and along with The Investor Selling Shareholders As The "Selling Shareholders")

("OFFER FOR SALE", And together with THE FRESH ISSUE, The "OFFER").]

The company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may consider a Pre-IPO placement of specified securities aggregating up to Rs. 120 crore as may be permitted under applicable law, prior to filing of the red herring prospectus with the RBI ("PRE-IPO PLACEMENT").

The Pre-IPO placement, if undertaken, will be at a price to be decided by the company, in consultation with the BRLMs. If the PRE-IPO placement is completed, the amount raised pursuant to the PRE-IPO placement will be reduced from the fresh Issue, subject to compliance with rule 19(2)(b) of the securities contracts (regulation) rules, 1957, as amended.

Established in 2015, Veritas Finance is a non-deposit taking non-banking financial company ("NBFC") registered with the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"), and under the scale-based regulations of the RBI, is classified as an 'NBFC-Middle Layer'. As a diversified, retail-focused NBFC, it primarily provide small business loans to

micro, small and medium enterprises ("MSMEs") and self-employed individuals, and over the years, have expanded its business to include home loans and used commercial vehicle loans. According to CRISIL MI&A, it is the fastest-growing NBFC in terms of Loans (AUM) growth among compared peers for the period between the Financial Years 2022 to 2024, with a compounded annual growth rate ("CAGR") of 61.76%. The company focuses on addressing the financial needs of underserved and underbanked MSMEs and individuals by providing access to credit.

ICICI Securities Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, Jefferies India Private Limited, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited and Nuvama Wealth Management Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the issue. The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges, being BSE Limited (the "BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (the "NSE", together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges").

ACTRESS DEVAYANI'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT SHORT FILM 'KAIKUTTAI RANI' WINS AWARD AT THE JAIPUR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Chennai Jan 21, 2025 : Actress Devayani, who has acted in around 100 films across various languages over the past three decades, has made her directorial debut with the short film 'Kaikuttai Rani' ('Handkerchief Queen'). The film has won the prestigious award for Best Short Film for Children at the 17th Jaipur International Film Festival.

'Kaikuttai Rani', which is produced, written, and directed by Devayani under the D Films banner, features music by maestro Ilaiyaraaja, with editing by the renowned B. Lenin. The film has cinematography by Rajan Miryala and sound design by Lakshmi Narayanan A.S.

With a runtime of 20 minutes, 'Kaikuttai Rani' explores the emotional

journey of a young girl who faces various challenges after losing her mother, while her father works in a distant place. The short film beautifully portrays the emotions and struggles of children through a deeply touching narrative.

The jury at the 17th Jaipur International Film Festival recognized 'Kaikuttai Rani' for its exceptional portrayal of children's emotions, awarding it the Best Short Film for Children. The film's cast and crew led by Devayani received high praise for their remarkable contributions.

Expressing her joy over the recognition, Devayani shared, "While I have acted in many films, it is an immense source of pride and happiness that my first directorial project has



received an international award. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the senior artistes who were part of this project. We are also working on taking 'Kaikuttai Rani' to other international film festivals." The lead roles in 'Kaikuttai Rani' are played by Niharika V.K. and Naveen N. The sound effects were designed by

C. Sethu, and DI Colorist is Antony Bebin A. The film is being represented at international film festivals by Ulaga Cinema Baskaran.

'Kaikuttai Rani' continues to garner attention for its powerful storytelling and is expected to make an impact at other global film festivals.

PNC-KKR Rs 9,000 Cr Deal: Approval for 8 Assets Received from NHAI, Two more by January End

Chennai Jan 21, 2025 : Infrastructure company PNC Infratech has received in principle approvals from NHAI to transfer 100% stake held by it in two subsidiaries (SPVs) for the Bundelkhand and Khajuraho road projects to the KKR-backed Highways Infrastructure Trust. With this, the PNC-KKR deal is on track for closure by 31st March 2025 as PNC Infratech is in the process of fulfilling the conditions precedents (CPs) for the transaction. One of the major CPs under the deal included change in control approvals from the highway authorities and no objection

certificates from the lenders to the projects, according to a person aware of the development. PNC has now obtained a change in control approval from NHAI for 8 of the assets, and the approvals for 2 more assets are expected by January 2025, NOCs have also been obtained almost from all the lenders, said the person quoted above. Till January 20, PNC has secured approvals from the NHAI for the following eight highways assets, as per its stock exchange filings between November and January:

November 20, 2024 - PNC Bithur Kanpur Highways Private Limited, PNC Gomti

Highways Private Limited, PNC Aligarh Highways Private Limited.

December 14, 2024 - PNC Triveni Sangam Highways Private Limited.

December 27, 2024 - PNC Chitradurga Highways Private Limited.

December 31, 2024 - PNC Rajasthan Highways Private Limited.

January 16, 2025 - PNC Bundelkhand Highways Private Limited, PNC Khajuraho Highways Private Limited.

PNC Infratech Limited and PNC Infra Holdings Limited a wholly-owned subsidiary of PNC Infratech Limited had

executed definitive agreements on January 15, 2024, with the KKR-backed Highways Infrastructure Trust (HIT). It involves divestment of 12 of the PNC's road assets, comprising 11 National Highway (NH) Hybrid Annuity mode (HAM) assets and 1 State Highway BOT Toll asset with approximately 3,800 Lane Kms in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan. The transaction for the 12 assets is proposed to be undertaken at an enterprise value of INR 9,005.7 Crore and is one of the largest acquisitions in the highways sector.