

**VICE-PRESIDENT TO VISIT CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU) ON 31ST JANUARY, 2025**

Chennai, 30 January 2025: The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, will be on a tour of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 31st January, 2025.

During his visit, the Vice-President will preside as the Chief Guest at the 3rd National Conference of the Deaf-Blind on

Advocacy for Education, Accessibility and Wellbeing, being organised by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyangjan), Chennai, an organisation under the Department of



Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,

**CM LAUNCHES SLEW OF SCHEMES OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

Chennai, 30 January 2025: Chief Minister Stalin issued financial grants for renovation works at 1,250 rural temples and 1,250 temples located in areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Each temple is allocated Rs.2.50 lakh, totaling Rs.62.50 crore.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, Chief Minister Stalin laid the foundation stone for the construction of 2,404 new housing units at a total cost of Rs.327.69 crore.

For the Fisheries &



Dairy Development Department, Chief Minister Stalin inaugurated 11 completed projects under the Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department at a cost of

Rs.73.93 crore. Additionally, he also laid the foundation stone for a new fishing harbor with a breakwater in Thirunelveli district, Kooduthazhai village,

at an estimated cost of Rs.15 crore.

Chief Minister Stalin laid the foundation stone for a Rs.227 crore 'Integrated Complex' to be constructed at the Co-optex campus in Egmore, Chennai. The project is implemented under the Handloom, Handicrafts, Textiles, and Khadi Department.

Chief Minister Stalin inaugurated two new Revenue Divisional Offices and 25 revenue inspector offices with residential quarters, constructed at a total cost of Rs.16.06 crore.

**UNION MINISTER OF TEXTILES SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH INAUGURATED HANDLOOM CONCLAVE -MANTHAN AT DR. AMBEDKAR INTERNATIONAL CENTRE JANPATH, NEW DELHI**

Chennai, 30 January 2025: Union Minister for Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh emphasized that there is a strong need to create massive awareness regarding sustainable & eco-friendly nature of handloom product, benefits of natural dyeing, organic fibers and uniqueness of designs of Handloom products to target emerging E-commerce market, which is expected to become 325 Billion dollar market by year 2030.

Union Minister of Textiles also urged organised/corporate sector working Textile industry to develop a model to provide sustainable livelihood ensuring social security and fair remuneration for Handloom weavers. An Award will be started by Textile Ministry for corporates/producer companies/Start-ups, which will create such a model for Handloom industry and provide sustainable employment to handloom weavers for minimum 300



days/year.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles Shri Pabitra Margherita addressed the event and emphasized that Handloom products are living testament of cultural heritage of our country. He also highlighted the importance of rejuvenating Handloom industry as a vibrant sector, which provides fair earnings to attract the younger generation.

Secretary/Textiles while addressing the event highlighted that the 'Conclave-Manthan' is a 'Chintan Shivir', which is an effort of Ministry to establish "Samvaad" with stakeholders to address concerns

regarding availability of marketing avenues and attrition of youth from Handloom weaving. She also emphasized upon creating a synergy between modern education and traditional knowledge.

Key highlights of the Event:

In the Conclave 03 technical sessions were organized:

Support for start-up eco system in Handloom Sector.

Handloom Marketing Avenues and strategies.

Modelling Handloom Sector for Young Weavers: Approach and Strategy.

The key deliverables of the technical

sessions are:

Focussing on Niche products.

Attractive packaging as an important value proposition. Promote viable employment opportunities in handloom sector to attract youth.

Curriculum for training courses to be designed in such a manner that it incorporates soft skills, IT knowledge and presentation skills.

Customers buy story behind the product, story behind making of product may be highlighted to attract customers. To incorporate handloom weaving as a part of formal education.

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES STRUCTURED TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH AMENDMENTS IN LABELLING PROVISIONS UNDER THE LEGAL METROLOGY (PACKAGED COMMODITIES) RULES, 2011**

Chennai, 30 January 2025: Government of India has introduced a revised timeline for implementing amendments in the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. To facilitate smooth implementation, it has been decided that any amendments to labelling provisions will come into effect on either January 1st or July 1st, subject to a minimum transition period of 180 days from the date of notification. This approach provides ample time for businesses to adapt to the changes.

The decision reflects Centre's commitment to consumer welfare



while ensuring ease of doing business and reducing compliance burdens for businesses.

In extraordinary or exceptional situations, decisions regarding the implementation of amendments may be taken on a case-by-case basis, ensuring timely and practical solutions without compromising public interest.

The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 play a crucial role in ensuring fairness,

transparency, and consumer protection in trade and commerce. The rules mandate clear, legible, and standardized labelling on packaged goods, ensuring consumers have access to vital information such as net quantity, MRP, manufacturing date and manufacturer details, etc. Rules provide consumers with all necessary information to make informed purchasing decisions, thus fostering a culture

of trust in trade and commerce.

The rules balance consumer interests with business needs, offering clarity for compliance to reduce disputes and legal uncertainties. The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 are pivotal in fostering a fair marketplace, empowering consumers, and promoting ethical trade practices.

These decisions reflect the government's commitment to balancing consumer protection with ease of doing business, while reducing compliance burden on industry stakeholders.

**MNRE NOTIFIES REVISED QUALITY CONTROL ORDER FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PRODUCTS**

Chennai, 30 January 2025: Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has notified the Solar Systems, Devices, and Components Goods Order, 2025, which revises and supersedes the existing Solar Photovoltaics, Systems, Devices, and Components Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2017.

The revised order has been notified in the Gazette of India vide Gazette Notification dated 27.01.2025 under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016 and will come into effect 180 days from the date of publication. This order covers Solar PV modules, Inverters to be used in Solar PV applications and Storage Batteries.

The revised Quality Control Order (i.e., QCO, 2025) has been notified by the MNRE after due consultations for over 24 months with all the relevant Stakeholders i.e., Solar PV Module manufacturers, Inverter manufacturers, Storage Batteries manufacturers, Testing laboratories for the products, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and Bureau of Indian

Standards (BIS). Comments from World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries were also sought by uploading the draft notification on WTO-TBT (Technical Barrier to Trade) website (<https://www.epingalert.org/>) for 60 days before publishing in the Gazette of India.

The revised Quality Control Order aligns with the Government of India's commitment to promoting high-quality and efficient solar photovoltaic (PV) products for sustainable energy development. The revision aims to enhance product reliability, ensure safety, and support India's ambitious renewable energy targets.

Key Highlights of the Order:

1. Mandatory Standards:

Solar PV modules, inverters, and storage batteries must conform to the latest Indian Standards (as notified by BIS) and bear the Standard Mark under a license from the BIS.

Minimum efficiency criteria (@ Standard Test Conditions) for solar PV modules are introduced which are as follows:

18% for Mono



Crystalline Silicon and Thin-Film PV Modules.

17% for Poly Crystalline Silicon PV Modules.

2. Applicability:

The order applies to manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, sellers and lessor of solar PV systems and components.

Products meant exclusively for export are exempted.

3. Certification and Enforcement:

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will oversee grant of licence and enforcement of the order. Market surveillance will be done by BIS or agency notified by BIS in consultation with MNRE.

4. Concurrent Operation:

Existing licenses under the QCO, 2017 remain valid, with renewals and new registrations governed by the QCO, 2025.

5. Penalty for Non-Compliance:

Any violation of the provisions of this order will attract penalties under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.

6. Promoting Public Interest:

The updated standards and specifications will ensure the availability of safe, high-performance solar products in India's growing renewable energy market.

Focus on Innovation and Efficiency:

The revised QCO, 2025 introduces detailed testing and efficiency requirements for solar PV technologies, including crystalline silicon and thin-film photovoltaic modules. It also specifies rigorous safety measures for inverters and storage batteries to meet global standards. This initiative underscores MNRE's commitment to ensuring the highest quality standards while fostering innovation and sustainability in the renewable energy sector.

## VARANASI SELECTS 10 SEMI-FINALISTS FOR GLOBAL \$3 MILLION MOBILITY CHALLENGE TO REIMAGINE CROWD MANAGEMENT

Chennai, 30 January 2025: The Toyota Mobility Foundation has announced its ten semi-finalists for its Sustainable Cities Challenge in Varanasi's old city, Kashi. Developed in partnership with the Municipal Corporation of Varanasi, Challenge Works, and World Resources Institute, the Challenge sought global innovators to create scalable, data-driven solutions to reimagine crowd management in the city. Varanasi, one of India's most iconic heritage and spiritual cities, draws a substantial number of tourists. This influx also presented an opportunity to develop innovative, data-driven solutions aimed at improving the city's safety and accessibility, benefiting religious tourists, residents, and vulnerable communities alike.

As part of the two-stage, three-year, global \$9 million Sustainable Cities Challenge, the city of Varanasi launched in June 2024 and secured over 80 innovator entries worldwide. Detroit, Michigan, and Venice, Italy, round out the list of three selected cities, each awarding \$3 million in grants.

The semi-finalists are: 1. CITYDATA, Inc.: CITYDATA.ai is a Silicon Valley-based big data and AI company that creates mobility digital twins for cities and districts worldwide. Its solution involves implementing its data platform CITYFLOW, which predicts and mitigates overcrowding scenarios.

2. FRACTAL ANALYTICS LIMITED: Fractal is a global provider of artificial intelligence and advanced analytics solutions to Fortune® 500 companies. The team's solution involves the integration of behavioral science, data-science, and human-centered design to tackle overcrowding

in Varanasi.

3. Graymatics Inc.: Graymatics Inc. is an emerging global leader in Vision AI and Video Analytics. Its solution involves using a multimedia processing platform, which leverages deep AI to pioneer real-time crowd and safety insights to democratize public infrastructure, mobility, and connectivity for citizens and tourists.

4. ARCADIS: Arcadis is the world's leading company delivering intelligence-driven sustainable design, engineering, and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. The team will use SANKALP, an integrated solution for crowd management, combining spatial analytics, real time monitoring and actionable intelligence.

5. INTPIXEL LABS PRIVATE LIMITED: VOGIC AI is dedicated to transforming physical spaces into safer, smarter, and more efficient environments by harnessing the power of visual data. The team's solution will use video analytics, vision language GenAI models, dynamic signage, public announcements, and multilingual WhatsApp communication to better manage crowds in Kashi.

6. Prameya Consulting Private Limited: Prameya Consulting Pvt. Ltd. is an urban planning and strategy firm that drives urban transformation through collaborative problem-solving and strategic planning. The team will use NayiChaal, a data-driven ecosystem, to facilitate information exchange between various stakeholders in Varanasi and empower them to make informed decisions by having access to real-time actionable data.

7. SmartViz Ltd: SmartViz is a pioneering technology firm reshaping the landscape of data-driven and human-centric environments in buildings and cities. The team's solution leverages 3D lidar sensors and machine learning for real-time pedestrian monitoring which presents the data with predictive modelling and scenario planning to help city authorities make proactive decisions around effective crowd management.

8. Steer Davies & Gleave Limited: Steer is an employee-owned consultancy, working worldwide in planning and design for transportation and movement. The team's solution includes developing a crowd dynamics model for Varanasi for better insights into crowd movements, helping city officials and partner agencies plan for upcoming events.

9. The Urbanizer: The Urbanizer is a pioneering urban design, landscape design, and architecture firm based in India. The team's solution uses JanJaatra, a color-coding system paired with real-time digital navigation, to revolutionize crowd management in Varanasi.

10. Tiami Networks Inc: Tiami Networks is a B2B and B2G deep-tech startup that develops innovative solutions that address complex challenges in dynamic environments. The team's solution uses PolyEdge™, which leverages signals of opportunity (SoOp), such as 5G and Wi-Fi, to provide real-time detection, tracking, and analytics to monitor and manage large-scale pedestrian and vehicular movements in real time.

The Challenge evaluated these entries for their scalable, data-driven solutions designed to better manage overcrowding, enhance citizen decision-making, and provide vital services for vulnerable groups in Varanasi.

"We're thrilled to welcome the ten semi-finalists to reimagine crowd management for Toyota Mobility Foundation's Sustainable Cities Challenge in Varanasi," said Akshat Verma, IAS, Municipal Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer, Varanasi Municipal Corporation/Varanasi Smart City. "Being the spiritual heart of India, Varanasi draws countless visitors each year, to experience its rich traditions, sacred rituals, and vibrant culture. We understand that this Challenge offers us an opportunity to manage the crowds in ways that preserve the city's unique spirit for generations to come, while strengthening the city's tapestry of faith and culture.

Semi-finalists will each receive a \$50,000 implementation grant to help teams refine and localize their solutions to reimagine a safer and more accessible Varanasi. They will also participate in the Challenge's Innovator Academy, providing them with resources and guidance for their solutions. "As Toyota Mobility Foundation, we look forward to collaborating with the semi-finalists to explore innovative data driven solutions that leverage technology and human centric design to enhance safety and accessibility in the historic city of Kashi. The hope for this Challenge is to develop scalable solutions that can serve as a blueprint for other global cities to reimagine their crowd flow and management," said Pras Ganesh, Executive Program Director, Toyota Mobility Foundation Asia.

## RNAIPL WINS YET ANOTHER INDUSTRY ACCOLADE FOR WATER CONSERVATION

Chennai, 30 January 2025: A bustling automotive manufacturing company might not be the first place that comes to mind when thinking about water conservation. But at RNAIPL (Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd), the JV manufacturing company for the Renault Nissan Alliance in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (India), water conservation is a way of life and a core part of the company's ethos since start of its operations in 2010.

Earlier in January 2025, RNAIPL's efforts at water conservation and recycling were recognised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Southern Region, which awarded the top prize for 'Wastewater Treatment and Recycling' to the company. This is the latest of many industry accolades won by RNAIPL for its efforts in water conservation (including recycling and reuse). Last year,



the company was named a 'Green Champion' by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Additionally, RNAIPL was also named the winner for 'Excellence in Water Management' at the Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) awards organised by CII in May 2024.

More importantly, in February 2024, RNAIPL was given water positive certification by DQS, an internationally accredited ISO certification body attesting to the fact that RNAIPL contributes more water back to the environment than it extracts.

Since its very beginnings, RNAIPL has carefully adopted a multi-pronged water management strategy that minimises impact

on environment by drastically reducing the need to extract fresh water from ground water tables.

RNAIPL obtains 90% of its industrial water requirement from rainwater harvested and stored within the plant for year-round usage. RNAIPL's rainwater harvesting ponds are capable of storing up to 149 million litres of water at any one time. The ponds are fed by rainwater harvested from surfaces across the plant.

Additionally, RNAIPL recycles and reuses 80% of the water consumed during daily operations. The manufacturing plant has inhouse capabilities to recycle up to 3 million litres of wastewater every day. Water thus recycled and treated is used for a

number of purposes including circulation in cooling towers, cleaning the plant's solar panels, jigs and general cleaning requirements, other industrial applications such as powertrain production, demineralised water production and so on.

Through its various measures to conserve, recycle and reuse water, RNAIPL has reduced its fresh water consumption by 48% between 2022 and 2024 well ahead of its original goal to reduce water consumption by 21% between 2022 and 2030. This has been possible thanks to regular water audits, upgrading plumbing where required and implementing stringent monitoring measures for water usage.

RNAIPL is also committed to sharing its knowledge and expertise on water conservation with local communities. The plant has helped rejuvenate 15 water bodies in its neighbourhood helping improve access to water for local villages.

## AKSHAYAKALPA ORGANIC RECYCLES OVER 40,000 KG OF PLASTIC WASTE THROUGH 'GIVE BACK THE MILK PACK' INITIATIVE

Chennai, 30 January 2025: This Republic day, Akshayakalpa Organic, India's first certified organic dairy company and producer of the country's most popular organic milk has announced about the success of its sustainability initiative, 'Give Back the Milk Pack'. Reflecting the spirit of responsibility and nation-building that Republic Day embodies, this innovative initiative encourages consumers to bring back their used milk packets for responsible recycling, sparking a significant revolution in the battle against plastic pollution. After its resounding success in Bengaluru, the program has expanded to other major Indian cities like Hyderabad and Chennai, further underscoring the brand's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability.

Since the inception of this initiative in 2022, Akshayakalpa Organic has recycled more than 40000 kg of plastic in total across Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad highlighting that when people come together

for a common cause, small actions can create a big impact.

This recycling program introduced by the brand urges consumers to follow three easy steps — rinse the pack for 30 seconds, hang it to dry, and once it dries then return it by placing it in a delivery bag. The consumers thus also play a pivotal role in creating a sustainable future for their generations to come through this simple process.

Speaking on the completion of this milestone, Mr. Shashi Kumar, CEO and Co-Founder of Akshayakalpa Organic stated, "We are excited to share that through our 'Give Back the Milk Pack' program, we have recycled over 40,000 kg of plastic waste in Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad. This accomplishment shows the powerful change communities can create when they unite for a shared goal.

It reminds us of our dedication to sustainability and how small efforts can lead to big environmental gains. We thank our consumers who have



joined us in making this initiative a success and making this planet a better place to live. This is merely the start, and we look forward to continuing our journey toward bigger achievements towards sustainability."

In addition to the 'Give Back the Milk Pack' initiative, Akshayakalpa Organic is deeply committed to fostering a culture of sustainability through various community engagement programs and educational initiatives. These include lake cleaning drives and neighborhood cleanliness drives across major cities like Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad, which empower consumers to make eco-friendly choices.

By inviting communities to actively participate in these efforts, Akshayakalpa emphasizes that every small action contributes to a larger positive impact on the environment, driving meaningful change for a sustainable future. The brand is also pioneering eco-conscious packaging solutions, such as paperboard packaging for its dairy products and sustainable leaf-based packaging for vegetables. These measures significantly reduce plastic use and reflect Akshayakalpa's broader mission of promoting self-sustainability and environmental stewardship. Through these initiatives, Akshayakalpa addresses the urgent issue of plastic pollution while inspiring collective action for a cleaner, greener tomorrow.

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## DATA INTELLIGENCE TRANSFORMING INDIAN FOOTBALL! STRATEGIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN DFB AND TCG DIGITAL

Chennai, 30 January 2025: In a game-changing development for Indian football, the meticulous application of Data Intelligence is poised to transform the sport's ecosystem in the country. This ambitious initiative arises from a strategic partnership between Deutscher Fußball-Bund (DFB), the governing body of football in Germany, and global technological pioneers TCG Digital.

This innovation, featuring live translated commentaries in multiple languages, will soon be unveiled, offering football enthusiasts an enhanced viewing experience. Soon, Indian football fans will enjoy a similar experience, with matches featuring live AI-powered commentary in regional languages. According to a joint announcement from DFB and TCG Digital, this technology will debut in India in the coming months, marking a significant milestone in making football more accessible and engaging for diverse audiences.

This collaboration was announced at the DFB headquarter in Frankfurt featuring industry leaders like Kay Dammholz, Director Media Rights -



DFB, Kaushik Moulik, Founder - India Football Centre, Debdas Sen, CEO - TCG Digital, and Keya Chatterjee, Global Marketing Head - TCG Digital. In the audience were eminent dignitaries including Fabian Veit (International Head - TSG Hoffenheim), Jan Mayer (CEO of Innovation - TSG Hoffenheim), Navas Meeran (President - Kerala Football Association), Dietmar Beiersdorfer (CEO - FC Ingolstadt), Gerhard Riedl (Founder - Indian Football Center, Austria), and key representatives from the Indian fraternity in Germany.

This partnership goes beyond enhancing fan experience and viewership. AI-powered video analytics will be deployed to scout young talent from grassroots levels, including training sessions, youth matches, and lower-division games. By identifying and nurturing promising players, the initiative

aims to bolster India's presence on the global football stage.

Kay Dammholz, Director of Media Rights at DFB emphasized the commitment to innovation: "It is the German Football Association's desire and responsibility to use modern technology to try and improve the game that the world loves. We think we can make football better with technology and enhance the fan experience. From combating piracy to enabling automated multilingual commentary, there are numerous avenues we'll explore."

Debdas Sen, CEO of TCG Digital, highlighted the transformative potential of Data & AI in sports: "At TCG Digital, we push the frontiers of AI through our platform. By partnering with the world's largest football association, we aim to transform football with solutions

that address complex challenges. Together, we'll blend creativity, innovation, and technology to make football better for players, fans, and the broader ecosystem."

Indian fans and sports journalists stand to benefit immensely from this partnership. Data intelligence & AI will provide seamless match statistics, enabling deeper analysis and making the sport easier to follow.

An AI-powered archive is also in the works, offering on-demand access to training footage, interviews, press conferences, and recordings of lower-tier matches, further democratizing information about the sport.

In addition to improving fan engagement, the partnership will promote fair play off the field. Enhanced anti-piracy measures will safeguard the integrity of football content, ensuring that stakeholders benefit from the game's growing popularity. New features, such as capturing fan emotions during matches and introducing AI-driven highlights, promise to make the sport more captivating than ever.

## TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR CONCLUDES 24-HOUR HACKATHON IN DELHI, CELEBRATING ROAD SAFETY MONTH 2025, EMPOWERING YOUNG INNOVATORS

Chennai Jan 30, 2025: As part of its ongoing commitment to fostering road safety innovation and celebrating 'Road Safety Month' (January 18 - February 17, 2025), Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) proudly announced the successful conclusion of the 24-hour Toyota Hackathon at GL Bajaj Institute, Greater Noida, Delhi. The event, graced by Chief Guest Mr Ashok Kumar IPS, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Greater Noida UP, Guest of Honour Mr RR Meena Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India and TKM's senior leadership, including Mr. Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Governance, provided an engaging platform for young innovators to develop practical and implementable solutions to critical road safety challenges.

The two-day hackathon was further enriched by expert mentorship from faculty at GL Bajaj Institute and Delhi Technology University. These mentors guided participants in refining their ideas and transforming them into



actionable solutions, underscoring Toyota's commitment to nurturing future change makers.

Education and Road Safety are core pillars of TKM's CSR initiatives. The Toyota Hackathon is a flagship component of its broader Road Safety Initiative, aimed at achieving zero traffic fatalities through a comprehensive safety framework. This reflects Toyota's holistic philosophy of prioritizing safety—not only through secure vehicle manufacturing but also by fostering awareness and driving behavioural change within communities.

The hackathon addressed key themes such as Road Safety Awareness and Education, School Zone Safety, Traffic Management, and IoT Integration in Road Safety. The goal was to encourage digital and policy-driven solutions that can significantly reduce accidents and save lives.

India records the highest number of annual road crash

fatalities globally. Each year, the country witnesses over 1,50,000 fatalities due to road accidents, with road traffic injuries being the leading cause of death for people aged 5-29 years. Recognizing this crisis, TKM launched the Toyota Hackathon in 2018 to integrate road safety into school and college curriculums. By encouraging students to become critical thinkers and solution developers, the initiative empowers young minds to address contemporary road safety challenges. This platform not only unlocks the potential of young innovators but also develops them into 'Change Agents'—pioneering positive behavioural shifts in their communities and making meaningful contributions to road safety.

The Delhi leg of the Toyota Hackathon 2025 saw participation from over 400 students across grades 9 to 11, representing nearly 100 schools. Participants followed a structured five-phase journey:

1. Team Selection & Idea Submission,
2. Boot Camp Shortlisting,
3. Final 24-Hour Hackathon,
4. Incubation Support for City Winners,

Out of 100 initial teams, 31 advanced to post-boot camp, 10 teams competed in the final hackathon, out of which 3 emerged as winners. These winning teams will receive ongoing incubation support to bring their solutions to fruition.

Following the successful event in Delhi, the Toyota Hackathon 2025 will continue in Mumbai on January 29 and Bangalore on February 14. For the 2024-25 academic year, TKM plans to expand the initiative to 300 institutions across these cities, with over 400 innovative concepts already submitted.

Nearly 75 teams are expected to present functional prototypes, with top teams receiving incubation support. This initiative not only amplifies Toyota's vision for a safer future but also inspires the next generation to leverage their knowledge and creativity in addressing critical societal challenges.

## JSW INFRASTRUCTURE ANNOUNCES Q3 FY25 RESULTS EBITDA OF Rs.670 CRORE UP 20% YOY PAT OF Rs.336 CRORE UP 32% YOY

Mumbai Jan 30, 2025: JSW Infrastructure Limited (the "Company"), a part of the JSW Group and India's second-largest private commercial port operator, today announced its results for the third quarter and period ended 31st December 2024.

Key Highlights for Q3 FY25:

Revenue of Rs.1,265 Crore, up 24% YoY.

EBITDA of Rs.670 Crore up 20% YoY.

PAT of Rs.336 Crore up 32% YoY.

Strong Balance Sheet, well positioned to pursue growth.

- Net Debt to EBITDA (TTM\*) of 0.4x.

- Cash and Cash equivalents of Rs.4,845 Crore.

\*Trailing Twelve Months Consolidated Financial Performance Q3 FY25:

During the quarter, the Company handled cargo volumes of 29.4 million tonnes which is higher by 5% over the last year. The volume increase was driven by the increased capacity

utilisation in the coal terminal at Paradip, contribution from PNP port and Liquid Storage Terminal, UAE. The growth was partially offset by lower cargo volumes in the Iron Ore terminal at Paradip.

The increase in the third-party volume was stronger with 31% year-on-year growth and the share of Third Party in the overall volumes stood at 49% vs 39% a year ago.

The higher volume and integration of the recently acquired Navkar Corporation translated to 24% year-on-year growth in the total revenue which stood at Rs.1,265 Crore. EBITDA increased to Rs.670 Crore (+20% yoy) with a robust margin of 52.9%. Consequently, PAT stood at Rs.336 Crore, reflecting a growth of 32%.

Key Business update: Overall Capacity enhancement to 174 mtpa from 170 mtpa

- Mangalore Coal Terminal: The cargo handling capacity increased to 8.1 mtpa, from 6.7 mtpa.

- PNP port: The capacity increased to 8mtpa from 5mtpa on the back of dredging activities while the Environmental Clearance (EC) is in place for 19mtpa.

Interim operations commenced at JNPA (Liquid Terminal): At JNPA, the company obtained approval from the relevant authorities to commence interim operations. It handled nearly 90,000 tonnes of liquid edible oil during November and December 2024. Similar efforts are underway to secure approvals for interim operations at the Tuticorin Dry Bulk Terminal.

- Low Risk on ESG: The global ESG risk rating agency, Morningstar Sustainability, has rated JSW Infrastructure Limited as "Low Risk" on ESG. This rating from a globally regarded agency confirms our belief, ability, and commitment to manage ESG risks as part of our overall business strategy.

Growth Strategy: As previously announced, the company has

embarked on a growth plan to increase its cargo handling capacity to 400 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by FY 2030 or earlier, up from the current capacity of 174 mtpa. To achieve this, it has outlined a comprehensive capital expenditure (capex) plan of Rs.30,000 crores.

Additionally, the Company has increased its total capex guidance to Rs.39,000 crores, with an additional Rs.9,000 crores earmarked for expanding its logistics segment. This expansion aims to build on the Navkar acquisition to develop a robust pan-India logistics network for last-mile connectivity.

The Company is targeting a top line of Rs.8,000 crores for its logistics segment, with a 25% EBITDA margin, resulting in industry-leading Return on Capital Employed (ROCE). With a strong balance sheet, the Company is well-positioned to pursue both organic and inorganic growth without compromising its leverage ratios.

## BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS, MADURAI, CONDUCTED MANAK MANTHAN - DISCUSSION ON INDIAN STANDARD FOR ULTRAFINE FLY ASH

Chennai Jan 30, 2025: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Madurai, conducted Manak Manthan - Discussion on Indian Standard for IS 19058:2024 - Ultrafine Fly Ash, at BIS, Madurai office on 28 January 2025. 42 participants attended this meeting in virtual mode through Video conference. Representatives from various cement and cement related products manufacturers, Representative of Ready Mix Concrete Manufacturers Association, Member Secretary of the Technical committee from BIS Headquarters, New Delhi, participated in the Discussion.

Ultrafine fly ash (UFFA) is a very fine pozzolanic material (pulverized fuel ash) consisting of ultrafine, glassy, spherical particles of average size 3 micron to 5 micron.

Due to the fine size of ultrafine fly ash particles, it has more reactive surface area, which helps to achieve higher early strength and lower permeability to the concrete mix due to mechanical packing effect of well graded fine particles. The ultrafine slag as well as ultrafine fly ash, both are indigenously produced in India while majority of silica fume is imported.

The performance of these ultrafine materials when used as part replacement of cement in concrete or mortar in the range of 5 percent to 10 percent is comparable and found to enhance the properties and durability of concrete especially its permeability.

IS 19058:2024 contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goal: Goal 9 'Industry,

innovation and infrastructure' towards building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation', Goal 11 'Sustainable cities and communities' and Goal 13 'Climate action'.

Shri S D Dayanand, Senior Director & Head of the BIS Madurai Branch Office, delivered the welcome address and outlined the program objectives. He also invited comments on this important Indian Standard which was published in December 2024. An in-depth presentation on the salient features of IS 19058:2024 - ULTRAFINE FLY ASH was presented by Shri A.K Jain, Representative of Ready Mixed Concrete Manufacturers Association, Mumbai and Member of Cement and Concrete Sectional

Committee, CED 02, Civil Engineering products Divisional Council (CED). His expertise provided a deeper understanding about the uses, benefits and performance properties of Ultrafine fly ash, general features of IS 19058:2024 and advantages of Ultrafine fly ash over other Ultrafine materials.

Comments on IS 19058:2024 was raised by representatives of Ramco Cements Ltd, Ariyalur unit. A detailed open house discussion was held, and queries regarding the Indian Standard were clarified by Shri A.K Jain and Shri Jitendra Kumar Chaudhary, Asst Director, and Member Secretary of Cement and Concrete Sectional Committee, CED 02, BIS HQ, New Delhi. People are invited to comment on Indian Standards through BIS CARE App.

## INDIAN BANK'S FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/NINE MONTH ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024 BANK'S GLOBAL BUSINESS IS AT Rs.12.61 LAKH CR, UP BY 8% YOY

Chennai Jan 30, 2025: Key Highlights (Quarter ended Dec'24 over Dec'23) - Net Profit up by 35% YoY at Rs.2852 Cr in Dec'24 from Rs.2119 Cr in Dec'23.

Operating Profit improved by 16% YoY to Rs.4749 Cr in Dec'24 from Rs.4097 Cr in Dec'23.

Net Interest Income increased by 10% YoY to Rs.6415 Cr in Dec'24 from Rs.5815 Cr in Dec'23.

Fee based income grew by 9% YoY to Rs.931 Cr in Dec'24 from Rs.852 Cr in Dec'23.

Return on Assets (RoA) up by 28 bps to 1.39% in Dec'24 from 1.11% in Dec'23.

Return on Equity (RoE) increased by 108 bps to 21.00% in Dec'24 from 19.92% in Dec'23.

Yield on Advances (YoA) up by 14 bps to 8.92% in Dec'24 from 8.78% in Dec'23.

Yield on Investments (YoI) increased by 32 bps to 7.12% in Dec'24 from 6.80% in Dec'23.

Cost-to-Income Ratio reduced by 234 bps to 44.56% in Dec'24 from 46.90% in Dec'23.

Gross Advances increased by 10% YoY to Rs.559199 Cr in Dec'24 from Rs.509800 Cr in Dec'23.

RAM (Retail, Agriculture & MSME) advances grew by 13% YoY to Rs.334739 Cr in Dec'24 from Rs.296845 Cr in Dec'23.

RAM contribution to gross domestic advances stood at 64.35%. Retail, Agri & MSME advances grew by 16%, 13.5% and 8% YoY respectively. Home Loan (including mortgage) grew by 12% YoY in Dec'24.

Priority sector advances as a percentage of ANBC stood at 43.85% (Rs.192761 Cr) in Dec'24 as against the regulatory requirement of 40%.

Total Deposits increased by 7% YoY and reached to Rs.702282 Cr in Dec'24 as against Rs.654154 Cr in Dec'23. Current, Savings & CASA deposits grew by 5%, 3.5%, and 4% YoY respectively.



Domestic CASA ratio stood at 40% as on 31st Dec'24.

CD ratio stood at 79.63% as on 31st Dec'24.

GNPA% decreased by 121 bps YoY to 3.26% in Dec'24 from 4.47% in Dec'23, NNPA% reduced by 32 bps to 0.21% in Dec'24 from 0.53% in Dec'23.

Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR, including T2O) improved by 219 bps YoY to 98.09% in Dec'24 from 95.90% in Dec'23.

Slippage Ratio improved by 50 bps to 0.78% in Dec'24 from 1.28% in Dec'23.

Capital Adequacy Ratio improved by 34 bps to 15.92%. CET-I improved by 91 bps YoY to 13.27%, Tier I Capital improved by 89 bps YoY to 13.77% in Dec'24.

Earnings Per Share (EPS) increased by 26% to Rs.84.70 in Dec'24 from Rs.67.12 in Dec'23.

Key Highlights (Quarter ended Dec'24 over Sep'24) - Net Profit up by 5% QoQ to Rs.2852 Cr in Dec'24 from Rs.2707 Cr in Sep'24.

Return on Assets (RoA) improved by 6 bps to 1.39% in Dec'24 from 1.33% in Sep'24.

Yield on Advances (YoA) improved by 15 bps to 8.92% in Dec'24 from 8.77% in Sep'24.

NIM (Domestic) increased by 8 bps to 3.57% in Dec'24 from 3.49% in Sep'24.

GNPA decreased by 22 bps to 3.26% in Dec'24 from 3.48% in Sep'24, NNPA reduced by 6 bps to 0.21% in Dec'24 from 0.27% in Sep'24.

Slippage ratio decreased to 0.78% in Dec'24 from 1.06% in Sep'24.

Credit Cost decreased by 18 bps to 0.47% in Dec'24 from 0.65% in Sep'24.

Key Highlights (Nine Months ended Dec'24 over Dec'23) - Net Profit up by 37% YoY to Rs.7962 Cr in 9MFY25 from Rs.5816 Cr in 9MFY24.

Operating Profit increased by 11.5% YoY to Rs.13980 Cr in 9MFY25 from Rs.12535 Cr in 9MFY24.

Net Interest Income grew by 9% YoY to Rs.18787 Cr in 9MFY25 from Rs.17258 Cr in 9MFY24.

Net Interest Margin (NIM) Domestic stood at 3.53% in 9MFY25.

Return on Assets (RoA) improved by 27 bps to 1.31% in 9MFY25 from 1.04% in 9MFY24.

Return on Equity (RoE) increased by 137 bps to 20.62% in 9MFY25 from 19.25% in 9MFY24.

Cost-to-Income Ratio reduced by 50 bps to 44.67% in 9MFY25 from 45.17% in 9MFY24.

Network: The Bank has 5877 domestic branches (including 3 DBUs), out of which 1987 are Rural, 1543 are Semi-Urban, 1179 are Urban & 1168 are in Metro category. The Bank has 3 overseas branches & 1 IBU (Gift City Branch).

The Bank has 5224 ATMs & BNAs and 13292 number of Business Correspondents (Bcs).

Digital Banking: Business of Rs.1,18,981 Cr has been generated through Digital Channels in 9MFY25.A

total of 117 Digital Journeys, Utilities and Processes have been launched so far.

Number of Mobile Banking users has grown by 18% year over year, reaching 1.86 Cr.

UPI users and Net Banking Users have

seen a 24% & 9% YoY increase respectively, reaching 2.04 Cr and 1.12 Cr respectively.

The Credit Card users increased by 52% YoY to 2.83 lakh. The transactions in Point of Sale (PoS) terminals has increased by 23% YoY, reaching to 35 lakh.

Awards & Accolades: The Bank received prestigious SKOCH Award for "Project WAVE", an Indian Bank digital transformation journey and for "SMA Collection Proclivity Predictor"- a model built to predict the probability of default for Special Mention Accounts (SMA) and reduce risks by outlining a targeted collection journey.

The Bank was honoured with the "Best Public Sector Bank" award in the organisational category and the MD & CEO of the Bank received "CEO of the Year" award at Tamil Nadu Leadership Awards 2024.

The Vertical Head of CMS/SCF conferred with PT100 Leadership Award as an "Innovator & Disruptor in Asia Pacific" at the Payments Transformers conference in Singapore.

In the 9th Banking Leadership Summit 2024 of Indian Investors Federation, the Bank received award for "Best Infrastructure & Ambience in UP", "Best Marketing Strategies for business in the year 2024 in UP" and runner up for "Banker of the Year 2024".

In the IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, 2024 - Special Mention under Large Bank segment, the Bank received award for "Best Digital Sales, Payments & Engagement", "Best Tech Talent & Org.", "Best AI and ML Adoption" and "Best FI".

During the 5th Annual BFSI Technology Excellence Awards 2024, the Bank was awarded "Best Cloud Initiative of the Year" - ET Edge recognition 2024 and "Best Team Project in Cloud Implementation (PSB)".

## AXIS MAX LIFE UNVEILS SMART TERM PLAN PLUS, OFFERING 2X RETURN OF PREMIUM

Chennai Jan 30, 2025 : Axis Max Life Insurance ("Axis Max Life"/ "Company") has announced the launch of the Axis Max Life Smart Term Plan Plus (UIN: 104N127V01), a non-linked, non-participating, individual pure-risk life insurance plan designed to address diverse needs and life stages, with coverage tailored for customers' needs. It offers a benefit to receive up to 200% of the total premium, paid-back as a special exit value with no additional premium to be paid to avail this benefit.

The plan also offers women-centric features tailored to the unique requirements of this customer segment. It includes a maternity cover benefit that safeguards against pregnancy complications and also covers the new-born for congenital anomalies for upto 3 years of birth. It offers Lifeline Plus benefit that allows the female Life Insured to increase the coverage in case of her spouse's death for upto 50% of Base Sum Assured, or Rs. 50 lakhs (whichever is lower). Most significantly, the plan offers a 15% discount on premiums for female

policyholders compared to male policyholders. Moreover, salaried females are eligible for an additional 15% discount on the first year premium which can be up to total discount of 27.75% on first year premium.

Prashant Tripathy, Managing Director and CEO, Axis Max Life, comments, "While awareness of term insurance is increasing, its penetration in India remains significantly low, leaving a substantial protection gap for many families. The Axis Max Life Smart Term Plan Plus is designed to address this critical need by offering affordable and accessible protection to a wider segment of the population. With its flexible options and competitive pricing, the plan is an attractive and budget-friendly choice, particularly for young customers. I am confident that by making term insurance more accessible and affordable with this plan, we can play a crucial role in bridging the protection gap and building a more financially secure India."

Key Features of the Axis Max Life Smart Term Plan Plus (subject to policy

terms and conditions):

**Rebalancing cover:** One of the variant (rebalancing cover) of the plan offers auto rebalance of Life cover Sum Assured and Accidental Death Benefit (ADB) cover Sum Assured.

**Multiple Plan Options:** The policy includes unique variants, such as "Return of Premium," "Early ROP Plus," "Smart Cover," and "Whole Life Cover," each designed to address specific customer needs.

**Special Exit Value:** Policyholders can receive up to 200% of the Total Premiums Paid back (excluding GST) from the 30th policy year onwards, ensuring higher value at the point of exit.

**Smart Cover:** Designed for families with young children, this feature provides 1.5X coverage for the first 15 years, helping ensure more robust protection during the early years of financial responsibility.

**Whole Life Cover:** Offers coverage until the age of 100 years, providing policyholders with long-term financial security, regardless of when the claim occurs.

**Income Protection**

**Cover:** Option to receive monthly income payouts in the event of death, available as either level income payout or inflation-proof payout.

**15% Discount for Salaried Individuals:** The plan offers a 15% discount on the first-year premium for all salaried professionals, making it more accessible for a wider range of customers.

**Inbuilt Cover Continuance Benefit:** Flexibility to defer the due premium for a period of up to 12 months from the due date of first unpaid premium, while maintaining the full risk cover under the base plan and attached riders (if any).

The Axis Max Life Smart Term Plan Plus, which has 7 variants, meets the rising demand for adaptable financial security in India. Despite growing awareness, only 31% of urban Indians have term insurance (Axis Max Life IPQ 6.0 Survey) revealing a protection gap. This plan, with its flexible options, empowers individuals to create a safety net for their families, aligning with Axis Max Life's commitment to financial empowerment.

## APOLLO HOSPITALS INAUGURATED ITS 3RD CANCER CENTRE IN CHENNAI AT VANAGRAM

Chennai Jan 30, 2025 : Apollo Hospitals proudly inaugurated its third cancer centre in Chennai. This comprehensive cancer centre at Vanagaram was inaugurated by Mr. Ma. Subramanian, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, and Ms. Supriya Sahu IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu along with Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Founder & Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd (AHEL), Dr. Preetha Reddy, Vice Chairperson, AHEL, and Ms. Suneeta Reddy, Managing Director, AHEL.

Mr. Ma. Subramanian, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu said, "Our focus is in synergy with bringing advanced cancer care to Tamil Nadu, and we're happy that Apollo Cancer Centres is constantly bringing newer and innovative technologies to the State and extending it across India and globally. I applaud ACCs and the team for their tireless efforts in revolutionizing cancer care in India. The inauguration of Apollo Cancer Centre at



Vanagaram is a significant milestone in our collective fight against cancer."

Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Founder & Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd., said, "At Apollo Hospitals, our mission is to bring world-class healthcare to the people of India, and we are committed to investing in the latest technology and infrastructure to achieve this. The opening of our new centre in Vanagaram will considerably enhance access to top-tier cancer care for patients across Chennai and the surrounding region. This launch aligns with our vision of a future where cancer is no longer a life-threatening disease, but a manageable condition. We will continue to strive towards this goal by investing in research, innovation, and the best possible care for our patients."

Ms. Supriya Sahu IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept of Health & Family

caregivers. The inauguration of our 23rd Cancer Centre underscores our dedication to providing world-class cancer care accessible to every patient."

A key feature of the Apollo Cancer Centre at Vanagaram is its standalone dedicated unit, which provides comprehensive cancer care. The Centre offers advanced diagnostic services, surgical and radiation oncology, and support from allied specialized medical professionals such as counsellors, dieticians, and speech therapists.

The Centre comprises a dedicated multidisciplinary team comprising renowned oncologists from various specialties, including medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology, pathology, and nursing. This team works together to create and implement comprehensive treatment plans that are specific to each patient's needs, ensuring holistic and compassionate care. Their organ-specific cancer management teams at the Vanagaram centre will focus on tailoring treatment strategies to the unique characteristics of cancers in particular organs.