

PM TO VISIT MAHA KUMBH MELA IN PRAYAGRAJ ON 5TH FEBRUARY

Chennai, 05 February 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj on 5th February. At around 11 AM, he will take a holy dip at the Sangam and offer prayers to Maa Ganga.

Mahakumbh 2025, which commenced on Paush Purnima (January 13, 2025), is the world's largest

spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe. The Mahakumbh will continue until Mahashivratri on 26th February.

In line with his commitment to promote and preserve India's spiritual and cultural heritage, Prime Minister has consistently taken proactive steps to



enhance infrastructure and facilities at pilgrimage sites.

Earlier, during his visit to Prayagraj on 13th December, 2024, Prime Minister

inaugurated 167 development projects worth Rs 5,500 crore, improving connectivity, amenities and services for the general public.

EMPOWERING GIRL CHILD THROUGH THE "MAHRI LAADO" RADIO PROGRAMME UNDER BBBP PROGRAMME IN HARYANA

Chennai, 05 February 2025: The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme of the Government of India was launched on 22nd January, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana. This landmark initiative sought to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in India and ensure that girls and women across the nation have the opportunities, care, and dignity they deserve.



organized at AWCs, engaging both men and women.

Participants were encouraged to download the "News on AIR" app to access the broadcasts. Detailed guidelines on app usage were disseminated via WhatsApp, telephone, and email.

The programme's preliminary impact as of 11th November 2024 showcases the remarkable engagement, around 25,572 persons downloaded the News on AIR app and approximately 1,12,933 participants engaged across 7 districts of Haryana.

The "Mahri Laado" Radio Programme is an example of innovation and effective community engagement under the BBBP Initiative.

It highlights how a well-coordinated, technology-enabled approach can amplify the message of gender equality and inspire change. The Mahri Lado initiative undoubtedly serves as a model for replication across the nation.

The objective of BBBP is to create behavioural and social change to increase sex ratio at birth, improvement in institutional deliveries, enhance enrolment of girls at secondary education level, check dropout rate among girls at secondary and higher secondary education, increase in Anti-Natal Care registration, create awareness about safe Menstrual Hygiene and Management (MHM).

The DWCD, Haryana launched a flagship initiative "Mahri Laado Radio Programme, which has emerged as an exemplary success

story under the BBBP scheme. The "Mahri Laado" Radio Programme was launched on 16th August 2024. The programme aims to inspire societal change by addressing gender inequality, empowering girls, and promoting the value of daughters through a community-based approach in Haryana.

Broadcast every Wednesday and Thursday via All India Radio (AIR) stations- Chandigarh, Hisar, Rohtak, and Kurukshetra, the 15-minute segments of "Mahri Laado" provide an engaging platform for disseminating messages of survival of girl child, empowerment, and

gender equality. The programme features stories, interviews, and discussions that resonate with communities across Haryana.

A comprehensive measure were adopted by Government of Haryana to maximize the programme's reach by mobilizing grassroots networks. District Programme Officers (DPOs), Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Anganwadi Workers, and staff from schemes such as One Stop Centers (OSCs), DHEW, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and POSHAN Abhiyaan actively mobilized communities. Listening sessions were

NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED CHAIRMAN PRESENTS DIVIDEND CHEQUE TO UNION MINISTER SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Chennai, 05 February 2025: National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has announced the declaration of final Dividend of ₹ 35.30 Crores for the Financial Year 2023-24, representing 5% of its net worth, in compliance with Department of Investment and Public Asset Management-DIPAM guidelines. This highest ever dividend underscores NSC's commitment to contributing to National Agricultural Development while ensuring financial sustainability.



NSC is a Schedule 'B'-Mini Ratna Category-I company wholly owned by the Government of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Established in 1963, NSC is engaged in the production and distribution of certified seeds to enhance agricultural productivity and ensure food security in India.

During FY 2023-24, NSC recorded significant growth in its financial performance. The revenue from operations increased to ₹1,143.26 Crores from ₹1,078.23 Crores in the previous year, while the total income rose to ₹1,182.48 Crores (ever highest) compared to ₹1,112.13 Crores in 2022-23. The company's profitability also witnessed a substantial increase, with Profit Before Tax (PBT) surging by 64.74% to ₹86.81 Crores and ever highest Profit After Tax (PAT) growing by 38.15% to ₹73.64 Crores.

NSC's operational efficiency and strategic market expansion contributed to this growth. The company achieved seed sales revenue of ₹1005 Crores, marking an increase from ₹947 Crores in the previous year. Notably, non-subsidized seed sales reached ₹920 Crores, up from ₹847.83 Crores. Online seed

sales also saw a remarkable rise, reflecting NSC's efforts in digital transformation.

The company strengthened its market presence by appointing 992 new dealers, bringing the total dealer network to 4,665. The Company also appointed 2,126 no. of Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and PACs and LAMPs.

On the production front, NSC continued to enhance its capabilities, with raw seed production/procurement reaching 17.10 lakh quintals. The seed processing capacity increased to 25.67 Lakhs quintal, supported by infrastructure improvements. Additionally, NSC played a crucial role in Government agricultural initiatives, supplying seeds to the Government, State Governments, dealers and also selling online via ONDC platform.

NSC is producing seeds in its five big Farms located at Sardargarh, Suratgarh, Jetsar in Rajasthan, Hisar in Haryana and Raichur in Karnataka with total area of 21,841 Ha. and through 14,166 Registered growers. The Company produces Test seeds to Breeder Seeds to Foundation seeds to Certified seeds, chronologically.

The Company operates from 11

Regional Offices, 48 Area Offices, 29 Production Centres, 75 Seed processing plants, having 7 Air conditioned seed storage facilities, and 180 seed storage godowns. The company has 4 Quality control labs and 1 DNA Fingerprinting lab.

NSC remains committed to its mission of providing high-quality seeds to farmers across the country. The Corporation continues to prioritize quality and sustainability, ensuring the availability of a diverse range of Bio fortified and climate resilient seed varieties. The product basket comprises of 80 crops and 900 varieties/hybrids comprising Cereals, Oilseeds, Pulses, Millets, Fodder, Fiber, Green manure and wide range of vegetables.

Saplings of fruit crops like Citrus, Pomegranates, Guava, Mango, Aonla, Ornamentals and Forestry saplings/plants are also being produced. NSC is committed to cater to the varying agro-climatic conditions of India and support farmers to contribute to the Nation's Agricultural growth.

All NSC Seeds and most of the Planting Materials are available on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The same can be ordered online and it is home delivered through the logistic partners. NSC Seeds and Planting Material can be searched on any of the 30+ ONDC App, which are interoperable, and order can be placed online.

UPDATE ON AYUSHMAN VAY VANDANA SCHEME

Chennai, 05 February 2025: On 29.10.2024, Government of India expanded Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to provide free treatment benefits of up to ₹5 lakh per year to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status including tribal communities.

With regard to the health benefit services, National Health Authority (NHA) has defined the latest national master of the Health Benefit Package (HBP) which provides cashless healthcare services related to 1961 procedures across 27 medical specialties including General Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Oncology etc. which can be availed by different age groups. Among these, treatment

services like Hemodialysis / Peritoneal Dialysis, Acute Ischemic Stroke, accelerated hypertension, Total Hip Replacement, Total Knee Replacement, PTCA, inclusive of diagnostic angiogram, Single Chamber Permanent Pacer, Double Chamber Permanent Pacer, Implantation, etc., are available to eligible senior citizens as well. Further, states have been provided flexibility to further customize the Health Benefit Packages to local context.

Under AB-PMJAY, the beneficiaries of Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards are eligible to take the benefits of the scheme through a network of over 30,072 hospitals including 13,352 private hospitals.

AB-PMJAY has a comprehensive media and outreach strategy



to spread awareness and empower beneficiaries for their rights and entitlements more prominently in rural and backward areas. This includes advertisement over traditional media platforms including newspapers, community radio, street plays, digital displays, radio campaigns, mass messaging, and telecast of beneficiary testimonials via Doordarshan etc. In addition to this, State Health Agencies have also engaged the wide network of frontline workers i.e., ASHAs, AWWs and VLEs (Village Level Entrepreneurs) who are pivotal in creating mass awareness at the

grassroot level. In addition to this, Ayushman Vay Vandana Card beneficiaries may give a missed call to helpline number 1800-110-770 or call to 24x7 call centre (14555) for any assistance/queries.

Further, the government has issued directions to the states to undertake extensive IEC activities to raise the awareness about the expansion of AB-PMJAY for all senior citizens of the age 70 years and above.

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav stated this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

DALMIA BHARAT FOUNDATION HOSTS VALEDICTORY CEREMONIES FOR DIKSHA TRAINEES IN ARIYALUR AND DALMIAPURAM

Trichy, 05 February 2025: Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), the CSR arm of Dalmia Bharat Ltd. (DBL), organized valedictory ceremonies at its DIKSHA (Dalmia Institute of Knowledge and Skill Harnessing) centres in Ariyalur and Dalmiapuram, celebrating the achievements of 50 trainees who successfully completed their skill development programs. In Ariyalur, 25 trainees graduated from the three-month Assistant Electrician course, meanwhile, in Dalmiapuram, 25 trainees completed the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) course. As a testament to the program's impact, all graduates have secured job placements in local industries, with salaries ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000 per month. The trainees were awarded certificates and offer letters during a special ceremony at their respective centres. Notably, this program



is under DBF's partnership with Karur Vysya Bank (KVB), established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Through this collaboration, DBF aims to equip 400 rural youth across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka with enhanced employability skills, paving the way for sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Present at both occasions were, Mr. Vaithyanathan, AGM, Karur Vysya Bank, Mr. Vinayagamurthi, Executive Director, Dalmia Bharat Ltd, Mr. Venkatesan and Mr. Kalimuthu, CSR officer, KVB, Mr.

Aswin Kumar, Operational Head, DBF, and Mr. Rameshbabu, GM & Admin Head, DBL.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Vinayagamurthi, Executive Director and Unit Head - Dalmiapuram, emphasized, "In today's fast-evolving job market, skill development is crucial for gainful employment. Our DIKSHA courses equip youth with the expertise needed to access meaningful job opportunities, which will, in turn, contribute to the economic growth of their communities. We take pride in the

achievements of our trainees and wish them the best for their future. We are deeply grateful to Karur Vysya Bank for their support to make this initiative successful."

Dalmia Bharat Foundation led - DIKSHA is a placement-linked, short-term skill training for youth and women, enabling them to join the skilled workforce and earn enhanced incomes. The program currently operates 20 centers across India, offering training in various fields such as healthcare, industrial sewing machine operation, data entry, and solar PV installation. To date, over 16,000 individuals have been trained through DIKSHA, with 75% securing employment or starting their businesses. Importantly, more than 50% of the trainees are women, underscoring DIKSHA's strong commitment to female empowerment and gender equality.

BUDGET 2025 QUOTE BY MR. GP HINDUJA, CHAIRMAN, HINDUJA GROUP

Chennai, 05 February 2025: "Boost Consumption to Revive Demand, Yet Remain Fiscally Responsible en route to Viksit Bharat

The Middle Class gets a significant tax relief after a decade to boost consumption and eventually revive demand is the Brahmastra FM has fired. Kudos to her for

doing so while remaining fiscally responsible by targeting a fiscal deficit of 4.4%. A special focus has been on human-intensive sectors that will generate employment. FDI limit to 100% in Insurance and special impetus to the Renewables, including energy storage



systems, are clear positives. It would have helped if the EV charging infrastructure

could have been given an industry status. Maintaining Capex levels while lowering taxation is huge but needs more details. With all these moves, the government remains laser-focused on Viksit Bharat by 2047".

GP Hinduja, Chairman, Hinduja Group

CUTN HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED ORGANIC ELECTRONIC MATERIALS - 2025

Chennai, 05 February 2025: The Department of Chemistry at the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) hosts the International Workshop on Advanced Organic Electronic Materials (iWAOEM-25) on 03 and 04 February 2025. The workshop is sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology's Science and Engineering Research Board (DST-SERB-CRG) and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), New Delhi.

iWAOEM-25 will be an essential forum to explore the latest breakthroughs in organic electronic materials to develop more sustainable, flexible, and lightweight electronic devices. These materials, which

include small molecules, polymers, and hybrid systems, are an alternative to conventional semiconductors.

Prof. R. Thirumurugan, Registrar CUTN, presided over the inaugural event. He said, "Interdisciplinary research is the cornerstone of innovation, and events like iWAOEM-25 exemplify the power of collaboration across diverse scientific domains.

By bringing together experts from physics, chemistry, biology and materials science, we are paving the way for the cross-pollination of ideas to drive the next wave of technological breakthroughs."

The event will feature expert lectures,



panel discussions, and interactive sessions with leading scientists and researchers, including Prof. Tomoyuki Akutagawa from Tohoku University, Japan; Prof. Prashant Sonar from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Prof. (Eme.) P. Predeep, School of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala; Prof. S. Nagarajan, Dean of Academics & Head of the Department of Chemistry, Prof. P.

Ravindran, Dean of the School of Basic and Applied Sciences and Prof. K. Sethuraman, School of Technology, Department of Materials Science, CUTN.

Prof. S. Nagarajan, Dean of Academics & Head of the Department of Chemistry convened of the workshop, delivered the welcome address. Dr. John Prakash, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, iWAOEM-25 Workshop Coordinator, delivered the vote of thanks.

TVS HOLDINGS COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF HOME CREDIT INDIA

Chennai, 05 February 2025: TVS Holdings Limited (BSE: 520056, NSE: TVSHLTD) ("TVS Holdings") is pleased to announce the successful completion of its acquisition of a 80.74% equity stake of Home Credit India Finance Private Limited ("Home Credit India") for Rs 554 Crores ("Transaction"). The remaining 19.26% of the equity stake has been purchased by Premji Invest and other associates of TVS Holdings.

This acquisition aligns seamlessly with TVS Holdings' mission to strengthen its presence in the financial services sector. Home Credit India has served over 1.6 crore customers, both online as well as offline. Home Credit India is one of the leading players in the consumer financing market with Assets under Management (AUM) of ~Rs 5,535 Cr. as of March 31, 2024. It has an employee base of 3,800 and a strong network of over 50,000 points-of-sale (PoS) spread over



625 cities across India. It focuses on New-to-Credit (NTC) customers, enabling them with Consumer durable loans for low-cost smartphones, along with personal loans. Home Credit India will significantly complement TVS Holdings' existing capabilities, enabling it to offer enhanced financial solutions to a wider audience.

This acquisition aligns with the strategy of TVS Holdings Group to play a leading role in deepening the financial penetration in India. Given the Group's strength in financial services, there are several areas of synergies to be realized, including, collections, cost efficiencies, in-house digital and analytics capabilities, and cross-sell.

The Company's investment in real estate business was sold earlier considering its capital-intensive nature and high gestation period of the projects. The Board felt that the proceeds received from sale of real estate business can be more productively deployed in other core investment strategy of the Company. Accordingly, the acquisition of Home Credit was funded through a combination of the proceeds from the recent sale of the Company's real estate assets and borrowings from capital markets, ensuring prudent financial management and capital utilization by TVS Holdings. By leveraging the sale proceeds of the real estate assets, TVS Holdings has maintained its strong financial position while

expanding into a high-growth industry.

Commenting on the completion of the transaction, Sudarshan Venu, Managing Director, TVS Holdings, said, "The acquisition of Home Credit India marks an important milestone for TVS Holdings. We are thrilled to welcome Home Credit India's talented team and huge customer base of 1.6 crore customers to the TVS family. This transaction underscores our commitment to delivering innovative and inclusive financial solutions. Together with TVS Credit, the Group will now have a lending book of ~Rs 33,000 Crore, taking us closer to our book-size goal of Rs. 50,000 Cr in the next three years."

"We are confident that this acquisition will help the group strengthen its position in the financial services sector, accelerate scale and profitability and build significant value for all stakeholders" said TK Kurien, Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Premji Invest.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY ORGANISES A SERIES OF EVENTS MARKING 100 YEARS OF ELECTRIFICATION A WALKATHON WAS HELD TODAY MARKING THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Chennai, 05 February 2025: In commemoration of a century of electric traction, the Electrical Department of Southern Railway organised a Walkathon today, the 3rd February 2025. The Walkathon was led by Shri Kaushal Kishore, Additional General Manager, Southern Railway. Shri Somesh Kumar, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Shri Sushil Kumar Maurya, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction Organisation/Chennai Egmore, Shri K. Harikrishnan, Principal Chief Personnel Officer and other Officers and Staff of Southern Railway Headquarters

participated in the Walkathon from Rail House, Nungambakkam, Chennai for 2kms.

Month-long events

Throughout the month of February 2025, divisions, workshops, sheds, and field units of Southern Railway will mark the occasion with various activities. A seminar will be held on 5th February 2025, focusing on modern advancements in traction supply, electric locomotives, and the integration of green energy in electric traction. Divisions and Workshops of Southern Railway will organise rallies, themed displays on electric locomotives, tower



wagons, and showcasing the journey of Electric traction in Indian Railways through archival photographs, vintage equipment, replica of electric locos and modern electrical gadgets used in rail transportation was inaugurated on 1st February 2025 at Rail House, Nungambakkam. The Exhibition will be open till 5 PM today, the 3rd of February, 2025.

An Exhibition

PASSPORT | MSME | PAN | AADHAAR
FSSAI | PATA | LEGALHEIR
2,4 WHEELER INSURANCE
PROPERTY TAX, EB - NAME TRANSFER
STATE AND CENTRAL GOVT
AUTHORISED FRANCHISEE
ALL ONLINE SERVICES

இ-சேவை மையம்
ஸ்ரீ லக்ஷ்மி டிபார்ட்மென்ட்
11, SOUTH PERUMAL KOIL STREET, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI - 600 026.
8148231942 / 8144337349
வாடா இ-சேவை மையம்

KAUVERY HOSPITAL HOSTS 6,500 PARTICIPANTS IN THE K10K CANCER AWARENESS RUN AN INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE EARLY CANCER DETECTION AND PREVENTION

Chennai, 05 February 2025: In a remarkable show of community support for cancer awareness, over 6,500 participants took part in the K10K Cancer Awareness Run organized by Kauvery Hospital on Sunday, ahead of World Cancer Day on February 4th. The event took place at the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School in Besant Nagar, Chennai, and aimed to highlight the importance of early detection and prevention of cancer.



concern for cancer awareness and emphasizes the life-saving significance of regular screenings and early detection.

Dr. A. N. Vaidhyswaran, Director of Radiation Oncology at Kauvery Hospital Alwarpet, emphasized the significance of early detection, stating, "Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide. With advancements in treatment available in all specialties in oncology at Kauvery Cancer Institute it is

possible to treat cancers and also can get better cure if detected early. Our goal with this run was to educate the public and encourage them to make regular check-ups a priority. We are grateful to all participants for supporting this important cause."

Dr. Aravindan Selvaraj, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Kauvery Hospital, spoke about the advancements in cancer care and the importance of preventive health. "Over the years, cancer

care has evolved with more personalized and targeted treatments. Our primary aim is to spread awareness on cancer prevention and early detection, and we are thrilled to see such a positive response from the Chennai community for the third edition of the K10K run. We hope this momentum continues, and we also hope this event motivates more people to integrate fitness into their daily lives, which is crucial for overall health. Special thanks to the Chennai Traffic Police and Greater Chennai Corporation for their support in making this event a success."

The 10 km run included a variety of age categories welcoming participants of all fitness levels, showcasing winners from both men and women.

STATE-WISE BUDGETARY OUTLAY FOR TAMIL NADU & KERALA IN SOUTHERN RAILWAY FOR FY 2025-26

Chennai 05, February 2025: Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology convened a Press conference and announced the state-wise budgetary allocation for the railway projects in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala for the financial year 2025-26.

Following Hon'ble Union Minister's Press Meet, Shri Kaushal Kishore, Additional General Manager, Southern Railway and Shri B. Vishwanath Eerya interacted with the Press persons present at the Southern Railway Headquarters. Principal Heads of Departments of Southern Railway, Shri Somesh Kumar, Principal Chief

Electrical Engineer, Shri Beji George, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, P. Mahesh, Chief Administrative Officer/Projects, Shri Sushil Kumar Maurya, Chief Administrative Officer, Construction Organisation/Egmore, Shri Ganesh, Principal Chief Safety Officer, Shri Rama Shankar Gahlot, Principal Chief Engineer, Shri Vijay Singh Meena, Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Shri Sivakumar, Principal Chief Operating Manager, Smt Malabika Ghosh, Principal Financial Advisor, Shri S. Subramanian, Chief Passenger Transportation Manager and other Senior officials were present at the Press Meet held at Southern Railway Headquarters. The Divisional

Railway Managers of Salem, Tiruchchirappalli, Madurai, Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad divisions participated virtually from the respective Divisional Headquarters.

Budget Outlay for Tamil Nadu
The Union Minister announced that the budgetary outlay for Tamil Nadu Rail development projects is Rs.6,626 Crores for the year 2025-26 which is 7.5 times the average outlay of Rs.879 Crores allocated for 2009-2014.

22 projects spanning across 2,587 kms costing Rs.33,467 Cr are in progress in Tamil Nadu. 77 railway stations in Tamil Nadu are being redeveloped under Amrit Station Scheme at a cost of Rs. 2,948

Crores. 601 works are in progress for commissioning of Kavach Safety systems at a sanctioned cost of Rs.1,460 Crores in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Budget Outlay for Kerala

The budgetary outlay for Kerala Rail development projects is Rs.3,042 Crores for the year 2025-26 which is 8 times the average outlay of Rs.372 Crores allotted for 2009-2014.

8 projects spanning across 419 kms costing Rs.12,350 Cr are in progress in Kerala. 35 railway stations in Kerala are being redeveloped under Amrit Station Scheme at a cost of Rs. 2,560 Crores. 107 works are in progress for commissioning of Kavach Safety systems at a sanctioned cost of Rs.531 Crores.

NATIONAL CYCLONE RISK MITIGATION PROJECT (NCRMP)

Chennai 05, February 2025: NCRMP was implemented in the 8 coastal States, in two phases. Under Phase-I, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha were covered and under Phase-II, six States viz. Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal were covered. State-wise,

phase and year-wise details of total funds disbursed under NCRMP since the project's commencement is at Annexure-I and details of state-wise physical infrastructure created under NCRMP is at Annexure-II.

The responsibility for maintenance and

sustainability of physical infrastructure created under NCRMP rests with the State Governments. Under NCRMP, setting up of Cyclone Shelter Maintenance & Management Committees (CSMMC) has been envisaged as registered Society for operational

sustainability of Multi-purpose Cyclone Shelters (MPCSs). States were requested to release one time corpus (Rs 5 Lakh) to the CSMMC for routine maintenance from the interest of the corpus fund and earmark the funds in State Budget for Long term Maintenances.

100 YRS OF ELECTRIFICATION & COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS HELD BY SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai 05, February 2025: 100 Years of Electric Railways in India: A Milestone for Indian Railways Rail enthusiasts often remember September 1825 as the month when the first-ever train operated in the world, while April 16, 1853, is etched in Indian Railway history as the day the first train ran in India. However, February 3, 1925, marked another milestone – the first electric-powered train journey in India, from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) to Kurla in Mumbai. As 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of electric traction in India, the country is also on the brink of achieving 100% electrification of its broad gauge network. This achievement, just as monumental as the first rail operation in India, signifies a century of progress in railway electrification.

The Road to Electrification: A Century-Long Journey

The introduction of Railways in India took just 28 years after the world's first train, but the adoption of electric traction was a slower process. While the world witnessed its first electric passenger train in Germany in 1879, it took India 46 more years to introduce this technology. Werner von Siemens is credited with presenting the world's first electric train in 1879, but India saw its first electric train only in 1925.

Electric traction quickly demonstrated clear advantages over steam engines, particularly in terms of power, acceleration, and efficiency. Electric locomotives required less maintenance, produced no pollution, and were capable of hauling longer, heavier trains over steep inclines. The initial high costs of



electrification were a barrier, but the benefits—particularly for suburban commuter traffic—soon became evident. The technology was particularly suited for routes with heavy traffic and steep gradients, making it ideal for the urban areas of Bombay, now Mumbai.

The Electrification of Mumbai: The First Step

In the early 20th century, Mumbai's rapidly growing population needed a solution for its increasing commuter traffic. Steam locomotives struggled to manage the steep inclines of routes towards Pune and Nashik, further emphasizing the need for electrification. In 1904, W.H. White, the Chief Engineer of the Bombay Presidency government, proposed electrifying the two primary rail networks serving the city: the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (GIP) and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway (BB&CI), now known as the Central and Western Railways. World War I delayed the project, but by 1920, electrification plans for the Bombay-Pune/Igatpuri/Vasai lines were approved.

The first electric train in India ran on February 3, 1925, using 1500 Volts (V) Direct Current (DC) between CSMT (then Victoria Terminus) and Kurla, a distance of 16 kilometers. This marked the beginning of clean electric transport in India, and India became the 24th

country worldwide to operate electric railways and the third in Asia.

The Electrification of Southern India

Alongside Mumbai, the South Indian Railway (SIR) began electrifying its suburban network, with the Madras Beach (now Chennai) to Tambaram line using the same 1500 V DC system. Electrification was completed by 1931, and this section remains one of the few Meter Gauge lines ever electrified in India.

By the time India gained independence in 1947, only about 388 kilometers of rail lines were electrified, primarily around Mumbai and Madras.

A New Era: Electrification Across India

The electrification of Indian Railways accelerated in the following decades. From just 388 kilometers in 1951, the network expanded rapidly to present day nearly 100%.

A Global Leader in Electrification

India's railway electrification success is unparalleled, with the country now home to the world's most electrified rail network. The only remaining non-electrified lines are some heritage and mountain routes. As India celebrates the centenary of electric traction in 2025, Indian Railways is poised to reach new heights in efficiency, sustainability, and connectivity, offering a cleaner and more reliable future for millions of passengers across the country.

RAILWAY BUDGET VIRTUAL PRESS MEET

Chennai 05, February 2025: Greetings from Southern Railway!

Like last year, Hon'ble Union Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnav will brief on state-wise budgetary outlay for various rail projects through Video Conferencing from New Delhi today 3rd February 2025. The time slot allotted in the

Video Conference for Tamil Nadu and Kerala states is from 16.10 hrs to 16.30 hrs.

During the virtual meet, Shri Kaushal Kishore, Additional General Manager, Southern Railway will be present at Manthan Hall, Ground Floor, Southern Railway Headquarters Building.

You are requested to



kindly deputee your representative/crew to assemble at Manthan hall, Southern Railway, at 15.45 hrs of today. (03-2-2025).

PR Officials Shri Bhaskar Ganti in 9003160085 and Smt Sujitha in 9003160084 will be available for guidance at the venue

TATA MOTORS PARTNERS WITH GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA TO RESTORE 1000 WATER BODIES IN OVER 20 DISTRICTS

Chennai 05, February 2025: Reinforcing its commitment to safeguard water resources and uplift rural communities, Tata Motors today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Maharashtra to restore 1000 water bodies in over 20 districts in the water-stressed regions of the state.

In 2024, Tata Motors rejuvenated and restored 356 water bodies in Maharashtra by leveraging the Gal Mukh Dharan Gal Yukt Shivar Yojana, a community-based desiltation programme, in partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation Department of Government of Maharashtra, NAAM Foundation, and local communities.

Strengthening its collaboration, Tata Motors intends to scale the water conservation initiative to over 20 districts in the state, including the water deprived regions of Vidarbha and Marathwada. The proposed collaboration aims to rejuvenate and revive 1000 water bodies in Amravati, Latur, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Nanded, Parbhani, Akola, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal, Dharashiv, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Ahilya Nagar, Sangli,



Solapur, Pune, Palghar, Thane & other districts of the state. NAAM Foundation will be the implementation partner for the programme.

Commenting on the initiative, Vinod Kulkarni, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Tata Motors says, "We are immensely proud to have strengthened our partnership with the Government of Maharashtra and NAAM Foundation to address the impact of droughts and water scarcity in the state. The successful rejuvenation and restoration of 356 water bodies in 2024 has encouraged us to scale up the programme to over 20 districts and reach many more villages in Maharashtra. This programme strives to raise the water table, provide access to potable water, make irrigation water available throughout the year, thus improving livelihood for villagers."

Speaking on the

collectively expanded our work to ten districts. We are happy to see that the positive impact of the water conservation efforts will now reach more districts."

In 2024, Tata Motors and NAAM Foundation successfully rejuvenated and revived 356 water bodies, excavating ~60 lakh cubic meters of silt across 10 districts of Pune, Palghar, Thane, Satara, Dhule, Solapur, Chandrapur, Ahmednagar, Beed and Latur. This collaborative effort has created a capacity of approximately 7000 million litres of water, benefitting 7,000 farmers and significantly raised the water table and improved access to potable water in rural Maharashtra.

Gal Mukh Dharan Gal Yukt Shivar Yojana provides preapproved funds to the farmer for the silt transportation to their farms, which enhances fertility of the soil. The end-to-end digital monitoring mechanism ensures a agility and transparency in project implementation.

The success and impact of the rejuvenation of water bodies in Maharashtra is a testament of Tata Motors' commitment to sustainable development and

FICCI (Industry Partner), and Invest India (Investment Facilitation Partner).

The Chennai Roadshow is the eighth event in the ongoing series of the investment roadshows being conducted by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, showcasing presentations from the eight North Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.

These states will highlight a diverse range of investment opportunities in key sectors, including agri-food processing, IT & ITeS, entertainment & sports, energy, infrastructure & logistics, tourism & hospitality, education & skill development, healthcare, textiles, handlooms & handicrafts, all crucial for driving economic growth in the region.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Viksit Bharat and Viksit North

East' has driven significant infrastructure development in the region over the past decade, including roadways, airways, railways, and waterways. These efforts have greatly improved the lives of the local population, boosting tourism and economic activities.

The North East Investor Summit supports this vision by attracting investments and unlocking the region's untapped potential, further advancing its journey towards prosperity and development.

Previous roadshows in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad, along with the state seminar at Vibrant Gujarat, have garnered substantial interest from potential investors. Building on these successes, the MDoNER organized a signing and exchange of MoUs event for the North East Investors Summit on March 6, 2024, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, facilitating discussions between senior officials

and investors.

The recent Ahmedabad roadshow, attended by Hon'ble MoS for MDoNER, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, facilitated numerous B2G meetings that encouraged potential investments.

The upcoming Chennai Roadshow aims to build on this momentum, providing investors with the opportunity to engage directly with the state officials. Given the success of previous editions, this event is anticipated to attract even greater attention and participation, solidifying Chennai's role as a financial hub for the economic growth of the North East.

The session will include valuable insights from the Hon'ble Minister of MDoNER and presentations from various states, highlighting investment opportunities and empowering investors to become part of the dynamic investment landscape of North East India.

YAMAHA R15 CROSSES 1-MILLION-MARK PRODUCTION MILESTONE: A LEGACY OF PERFORMANCE AND INNOVATION IN INDIAN MOTORCYCLING

Chennai 05, February 2025 : India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd. is proud to celebrate a major milestone for one of its most iconic motorcycles—the Yamaha R15 – which has completed the production milestone of 1 million units. A product that has led Yamaha's performance strategy in the Indian market since its debut, the R15 has been at the forefront of delivering cutting-edge technology and style, while appealing to the aspirations of young Indian motorcyclists through its confidence-inspiring handling prowess and exceptional riding experience.

With the production of over 1 million units of R15 at the state-of-the-art Surajpur plant, this milestone underscores Yamaha's manufacturing excellence and commitment to global quality standards in meeting India's growing demand for premium motorcycles while also supporting global markets. Reflecting the rising preference for premium motorcycles, IYM prioritised Indian customers, with more than 90% of these units sold in India. The R15



has also been pivotal in positioning Yamaha as a key export hub for its new products, further strengthening its global presence.

A trusted companion to over a million customers, the R15 is where the emotion of motorcycling truly begins. For its riders, the R15 is more than just a machine—it is a connection that fuels passion and creates unforgettable memories. For over 16 years, the R15 has been the gateway to premium motorcycling in India, bringing the thrill of the track to the roads. With every passing year, this bond has grown stronger, driving the brand to innovate and deliver new experiences that keep the spirit of riding alive.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Itaru Otani, Chairman, India Yamaha Motor Group of Companies, said:

"The R15 embodies Yamaha's Racing DNA with cutting-edge

technology, thrilling design, and unmatched performance. With every iteration of the R15, we have elevated the riding experience, making the R15 the top choice for young enthusiasts. We extend our immense gratitude to our customers for their unwavering trust and to our employees for their dedication, which have been instrumental in achieving this landmark. Yamaha remains dedicated to shaping the future of performance motorcycling, ensuring the R15 continues to inspire riders for generations to come."

Since its launch in 2008, the Yamaha R15 has set new benchmarks in the performance motorcycle segment with its iconic design and racing inspired engineering. Achieving a consistent growth over 16 years, the R15 model continues to lead its category, with production volumes increasing with each new generation to keep

pace with rising demand.

The Yamaha R15 has redefined the supersport segment in India across generations. Launched in 2008, it introduced a liquid-cooled engine, DiASil Cylinder, and Deltabox frame, setting new benchmarks in performance and handling. The R15 V2.0 (2011) enhanced agility with an aluminium swingarm and sportier design, while the R15 S addressed rider comfort. In 2018, the R15 V3 brought a 155cc VVA engine, Assist & Slipper Clutch, and premium features like inverted forks and LED lighting. The current generation R15 V4 launched in 2021 pushed boundaries further with traction control, a quick shifter, and an aerodynamic overhaul, ensuring the R15 remains one of the most loved motorcycles in India.

As Yamaha celebrates this significant milestone, the R15 stands as a testament to the brand's vision of combining innovation and manufacturing excellence to deliver world-class motorcycles for Indian and global riders.

PRE-EVENT CHENNAI ROADSHOW

Chennai 05, February 2025 : The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) will host the North East Trade and Investment Roadshow in Chennai on February 5, 2025, starting at 3:30 PM at Hotel Hilton, Guindy, Chennai. The event will be inaugurated by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of MDoNER.

Key officials, including Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, MDoNER, and Shri Shantanu, Joint Secretary, MDoNER, along with senior representatives from various North Eastern States, will also be in attendance.

The roadshow will feature B2G meetings, providing a unique opportunity for potential investors to engage directly with state representatives and explore investment opportunities across multiple sectors in the North Eastern Region. This event is organized in collaboration with the State Governments of the North Eastern Region,

INDIAN NAVY TO CONDUCT QUALITY ASSURANCE CONCLAVE

Chennai 05, February 2025 : Quality Assurance (QA) Conclave, themed 'Collaborative Quality Assurance: Bridging the Gap Between Industry and Defence', is scheduled to be held on 07 Feb 25 at Manekshaw Convention Centre, New Delhi. Aimed to provide a strategic platform to advance India's defence manufacturing ecosystem, the conclave will serve as a pivotal forum to foster dialogue and strengthen cooperation between the Defence and Shipbuilding sectors.

The conclave underscores the Government of India's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, built on the principles of innovation,

collaboration, and operational excellence. It emphasises the importance of Quality Assurance as a critical enabler in developing a robust, self-reliant Shipbuilding industry that meets world-class standards.

As India's Shipbuilding sector gears up to play a larger role in National Defence, the conclave will focus on harmonizing quality assurance practices to enhance efficiency, reliability, and performance. The event will bring together senior leaders from the Government, Industry, and Quality Assurance experts to discuss advanced approaches and strategies for achieving excellence in Shipbuilding

Quality Assurance, ensuring our Naval platforms are equipped to meet the highest standards of operational readiness.

The event will feature high-level discussions and expert presentations on the following topics:-

(a) Proactive Quality Control and Collaboration with Industry: Developing frameworks to enhance quality assurance through effective partnerships.

(b) Streamlining Type Tests and Risk Mitigation Strategies: Optimizing testing processes to ensure compliance and minimize risks.

(c) Balancing Quality Assurance and Timelines of Shipbuilding: Addressing the dual

challenge of maintaining high-quality standards within demanding project schedules.

(d) Integrating Quality Assurance with Delay Mitigation Strategies: Exploring innovative approaches to align quality assurance with project delivery timelines.

The event seeks to promote a deeper understanding of the intersection between Quality Assurance and operational efficiency in warship building, present actionable insights and global best practices to mitigate risks and streamline processes, and foster collaboration among Defence organizations, Industry stakeholders and Policy makers to achieve shared objectives.