

**U.S DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER**

Chennai, 14 February 2025: The U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Ms. Tulsi Gabbard, called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today.



Prime Minister fondly recalled his earlier interactions with Ms Gabbard. The discussions touched on

enhancing bilateral intelligence cooperation, particularly in counter-terrorism, cybersecurity,

emerging threats, and strategic intelligence sharing.

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest, reaffirming their commitment to a secure, stable, and rules-based international order.

**PROBATIONERS OF INDIAN CIVIL ACCOUNTS SERVICE, INDIAN POST AND TELE COMMUNICATION (FINANCE & ACCOUNTS) SERVICE, INDIAN RAILWAY MANAGEMENT SERVICE (ACCOUNTS) AND INDIAN POSTAL SERVICE CALL ON THE PRESIDENT**

Chennai, 14 February 2025: A group of probationers of Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Post and Telecommunication (Finance & Accounts) Service, Indian Railway Management Service (Accounts) and Indian Postal Service called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (February 13, 2025).

their domain of functioning, be it managing public finances or ensuring seamless connectivity and communication across the country. She told them that as India moves towards sustainable and inclusive development while focusing on innovation and digital initiatives, young civil servants like them, have an important responsibility to shoulder.



increased transparency and accountability. To cater to these requirements, it is essential for the government departments to modernize and digitize their systems by making best use of emerging technologies.

young officers to keep themselves abreast of advanced technologies and skills, and strive to create more citizen-centric, efficient and transparent governance systems.

She expressed confidence that they will make all efforts not only to excel in their individual careers, but also to contribute to effective delivery of government services to the people of India.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the young officers have the opportunity to contribute directly to nation's development and prosperity through

The President said that there is an ever-rising expectation among public for greater speed and efficiency in service delivery, along with

Such technologies include machine learning, data analytics, blockchain technology and artificial intelligence. She urged

**NASA, SPACEX FAST-TRACK SUNITA, BUTCH RETURN TO EARTH**

Chennai, 14 February 2025: NASA and SpaceX have announced an accelerated timeline for the upcoming crew rotation mission to the International Space Station (ISS), which will bring astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore back to Earth sooner than originally scheduled. The Crew-10 launch is now targeted for March 12, pending final mission readiness and certification of flight readiness, according to

NASA's recent update. The Crew-9 mission, which includes Williams, Wilmore, NASA astronaut Nick Hague, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, is scheduled to return to Earth after completing a handover with the incoming Crew-10 team. The Crew-10 mission, initially set to launch on March 25, will now take off on March 12. This change allows for the earlier return of Williams and Wilmore,

who have been on the ISS far longer than planned.

NASA announced that it has opted to use a previously flown SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, named Endeavour, for the Crew-10 mission, instead of a new SpaceX capsule that faced production delays. Before the flight, the agency will conduct a readiness assessment of Endeavour, which has previously flown on

three missions.

Williams and Wilmore have been aboard the ISS since June 2023, after Boeing's Starliner capsule faced technical failures. Their mission was initially expected to last only one week, but repeated delays extended their stay. The decision comes after former U.S. President Donald Trump publicly called on SpaceX CEO Elon Musk last month to bring the astronauts home "as soon as possible." While NASA had already planned the return, Trump blamed President Joe Biden for the delay. Musk also criticized Biden, even though SpaceX has been working with NASA to resolve the situation. Boeing's Starliner capsule, developed under NASA's Commercial Crew Program, has been plagued with engineering flaws. While the spacecraft returned to Earth in September, it did so without Williams and Wilmore, leaving them stranded on the ISS.

**IITM PRAVARTAK PARTNERS WITH AGILISIUM TO ACCELERATE RESEARCH IN LIFE SCIENCES AND HEALTHCARE**

Chennai, 14 February 2025: IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation has entered into a strategic partnership with Agilisium, a leading data innovation partner for Life Sciences companies, to accelerate Research in Life Sciences and Healthcare endeavors.



With this move, the company aims to collaborate on joint research, social impact programs, and innovative solutions.

Agilisium, with its deep knowledge and on-ground expertise, will further develop data-focused solutions to create a strong ecosystem for the sectors in India. The MoU signed in the city will also enable Agilisium and IITM Pravartak to synergize their offerings for the benefit of the industry while driving innovation and societal impact.

Through this newly-signed MoU, Agilisium will leverage its technological expertise and resources to augment IIT Madras' Regional Interaction Centres (Kalvi Shakthi program), which are village-based study hubs designed to connect rural students with qualified educators via technology.

This partnership will augment existing critical infrastructure, implement digital platforms for remote learning and healthcare, and

collaborate on content development, transforming these centers into hubs of educational excellence in rural communities.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr Raj Babu, Founder and CEO, Agilisium, said, "We are delighted to initiate this strategic partnership with IITM Pravartak. This marks a pivotal moment in our commitment to driving social impact and advancing research within the Life sciences and Healthcare sectors. By integrating our advanced data analytics capabilities with IITM Pravartak's innovative technological initiatives, we are poised to tackle critical challenges and effectively make transformative changes in these fields. Our combined efforts will focus on enhancing research outcomes and improving patient care. Additionally, augmentation of Regional Interaction Centers ('Kalvi Shakthi') will contribute to rural education and skill development, further extending our impact. We are confident that this alliance will foster innovation, translate data into actionable

intelligence, and deliver substantial benefits to both individuals and communities."

IITM Pravartak Technologies is a Section 8 Company housing the Technology Innovation Hub on Sensors, Networking, Actuators and Control Systems. It is funded by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems and hosted by IIT Madras

Elaborating further, Mr. G. Veeraraghavan, COO, IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation said, "We are happy to announce a strategic partnership between IITM Pravartak and Agilisium to promote rural education for school children through our Kalvi Shakthi/Vidhya Shakthi program and advance healthcare innovation through joint research. This partnership marks a significant milestone in our shared mission to transform healthcare through education, research, and innovation."

Together with IITM Pravartak, Agilisium aims to improve access to quality education, increase digital literacy and empower local populations with essential knowledge and skills. These centers will serve as vital conduits for knowledge dissemination, helping to bridge educational disparities while driving sustainable community development. This partnership will also work towards rural health program by leveraging emerging technologies and existing framework that IITM Pravartak has established across India.

Besides focusing on training and upskilling initiatives, and improving underserved areas, Agilisium will combine its expertise in data analytics, AI, GenAI, and cloud technologies with IITM-Pravartak's research strengths to accelerate digital innovation in life sciences for the next three years. This collaboration will drive the development of AI-powered diagnostic tools, personalized medicine platforms, and predictive models for disease outbreak management. These solutions will enhance diagnostic accuracy, create tailored treatments, and optimize healthcare delivery, ultimately improving patient outcomes and operational efficiencies.

**TN TO CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL SURVEY TO ASSESS STANDARDS**

Chennai, 14 February 2025: School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi announced on Wednesday that the school education department will soon conduct an assessment involving 10 lakh students across Tamil Nadu to evaluate the state's educational standards. The results of this assessment will be made public to provide a clearer picture of the educational landscape in the state.

Annamalai have cited the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) to argue that Tamil Nadu's educational standards lag behind those of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. However, he asserted that this new survey would present a more accurate representation of the situation.

During the inauguration of a state-level science exhibition under the Vanavil Mandram scheme at the Anna Centenary Library, Minister Poyyamozhi pointed out that in states like Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, the ASER

survey, conducted by the Pratham Foundation, is administered by the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs).

"In Tamil Nadu, however, the survey is conducted by 25 lesser-known organizations. ASER is a household survey and does not even involve visiting schools," he stated, questioning the reliability of the report.

In response, representatives from the Pratham Foundation in Tamil Nadu clarified that in 2018, they collaborated with DIETs to conduct the survey across 12

districts. They explained that the survey is typically conducted by Diploma in Teacher Education (DTEd) students. However, due to a shortage of these students in DIETs across several districts, collaboration was limited. The foundation is now considering involving Bachelor of Education (BED) students for future surveys. They also emphasized that all volunteers receive training from the Pratham Foundation before conducting the survey and assured that this collaboration does not influence the survey results.

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## AXIS BANK HOSTS 9TH EDITION OF EVOLVE IN CHENNAI, PAVES WAY FOR FUTURE-READY MSMEs

Chennai, 14 February 2025: Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, hosted the 9th edition of Evolve, its flagship knowledge-sharing seminar for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), in Chennai. The theme for 9th edition of Evolve - 'Future-Proofing MSMEs for the New-Age Business', emphasized the importance of embracing innovation, digital transformation and operational resilience in an evolving business landscape. The seminar was addressed by Mr. Rajiv Anand, Deputy Managing Director, Axis Bank, Mr. Vijay Shetty, Head - Commercial Banking Group, Axis Bank and Mr. Brijesh Chalil, Executive Vice-President & Head - Treasury Market Sales, Axis Bank, Mr. Prashant TS, President - Mid-Corporate & Medium Enterprises, Axis Bank and Mr. Nuti Chakravarthy, Executive Vice President & Head, Branch Banking-Regional Distribution South 2, Axis Bank. The panel discussion featured prominent panelists including Padma Shri Rafeeqe Ahmed Mecca, Chairperson, Farida Group, Mr. Vijaay Sheth, Managing Director, Urmilla



Enterprise and Mr. Rajendra Sabanayagam, Managing Director, Sumangala Steel Limited, who shared invaluable insights into the MSME sector. The event witnessed participation of over 100+ entrepreneurs from small, and medium enterprises.

Through this knowledge sharing initiative, Axis Bank will provide entrepreneurs with solutions to streamline operations, enhance competitiveness, and expand their market presence. The seminar will offer real-world insights into digital transformation, operational efficiency, and new-age business strategies, enabling MSMEs to navigate the market disruptions with confidence. The theme aligns with Axis Bank's broader vision of creating a future-ready India through meaningful and innovative collaborations.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rajiv Anand, Deputy Managing Director, Axis Bank, said,

"MSMEs are the backbone of India's economy, driving nearly a third of the GDP and providing employment to millions. At Axis Bank, we see ourselves not just as a financial service provider but as a catalyst that empowers MSMEs with the tools, insights, and support they need to future-proof their businesses. This platform goes beyond traditional banking, fostering an ecosystem where businesses can explore cutting-edge innovations, collaborate with industry leaders, and strengthen their resilience to adapt to an ever-changing global marketplace. Axis Bank is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with MSMEs, championing their aspirations and helping them thrive as key drivers of India's economic success."

The Evolve series, launched in 2014, has emerged as a transformative platform for empowering India's MSMEs, positively impacting over 9,000+ MSME entrepreneurs

across 50 plus cities. This year, Axis Bank is hosting Evolve across 10 key cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kochi, Indore, Ahmedabad. Through Evolve, Axis Bank provides a distinctive opportunity for MSMEs to network with industry leaders, financial experts, and peers, creating a vibrant ecosystem of shared success stories and innovative ideas.

Axis Bank's MSME lending portfolio has achieved a remarkable 30% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) since 2020, reflecting its deep commitment to meet the financial needs of this critical sector. With a current market share of 8.6% in the overall MSME credit industry, Axis Bank has positioned itself as a leader in driving MSME growth across the country. The Bank has introduced a range of innovative and tailored solutions that address the unique needs of this dynamic sector, reaffirming its role as a trusted partner for India's MSMEs. These include cash flow-based lending products leveraging GST and banking transaction data, digital platforms such as Neo for Business, and bespoke credit journeys that ensure quick and seamless access to funds.

## COCA-COLA REPORTS FOURTH QUARTER AND FULL YEAR 2024 RESULTS

Chennai, 14 February 2025: The Coca-Cola Company today reported fourth quarter and full year 2024 results. "Our all-weather strategy is working, and we continue to demonstrate our ability to lead through dynamic external environments," said James Quincey, Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. "Our global scale, coupled with local-market expertise and the unwavering dedication of our people and our system, uniquely position us to capture the vast opportunities ahead."

Quarterly/Full Year Performance:

- Revenues: For the quarter, net revenues increased 6% to \$11.5 billion, and organic revenues (non-GAAP) grew 14%, driven by 9% growth in price/mix and a 5% increase in concentrate sales. Concentrate sales were 3 points ahead of unit case volume, primarily driven by two additional days and the timing of concentrate shipments. For the full year, net revenues grew 3% to \$47.1 billion, and organic



revenues (non-GAAP) grew 12%, driven by 11% growth in price/mix and 2% growth in concentrate sales. Concentrate sales were 1 point ahead of unit case volume, primarily due to the timing of concentrate shipments.

Operating margin: For the quarter, operating margin was 23.5% versus 21.0% in the prior year, while comparable operating margin (non-GAAP) was 24.0% versus 23.1% in the prior year. For the full year, operating margin was 21.2% versus 24.7% in the prior year, while comparable operating margin (non-GAAP) was 30.0% versus 29.1% in the prior year. For both the quarter and the full year, operating margin included items impacting comparability, as well as currency headwinds. Full year operating margin included a charge of \$3.1 billion related to

the remeasurement of the contingent consideration liability to fair value in conjunction with the acquisition of fairlife, LLC ("fairlife") in 2020. For both the quarter and the full year, comparable operating margin (non-GAAP) expansion was primarily driven by strong organic revenue (non-GAAP) growth and the impact of refranchising bottling operations, partially offset by higher input costs, higher operating expenses and currency headwinds.

Earnings per share: For the quarter, EPS grew 12% to \$0.51, while comparable EPS (non-GAAP) grew 12% to \$0.55. EPS performance included the impact of a 1-point currency headwind, while comparable EPS (non-GAAP) performance included the impact of an 11-point currency headwind. For the full year, EPS declined

slightly to \$2.46, while comparable EPS (non-GAAP) grew 7% to \$2.88. EPS and comparable EPS (non-GAAP) performance both included the impact of a 9-point currency headwind.

Market share: For both the quarter and the full year, the company gained value share in total nonalcoholic ready-to-drink ("NARTD") beverages.

Cash flow: For the full year, cash flow from operations and free cash flow (non-GAAP) were \$6.8 billion and \$4.7 billion, respectively. Both decreased versus the prior year, primarily due to a \$6.0 billion deposit made to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") related to ongoing tax litigation ("IRS tax litigation deposit"). Free cash flow excluding the IRS tax litigation deposit (non-GAAP) was \$10.8 billion, an increase of \$1.0 billion versus the prior year, largely due to strong business performance and working capital benefits, partially offset by higher other tax payments and higher capital expenditures.

## INDULGE IN LOVE & LUXURY AT SHINE SPA

Chennai, 14 February 2025: Celebrate love this Valentine's at Shine Spa, Sheraton Grand Chennai Resort & Spa, Mahabalipuram, with exclusive spa offers designed for relaxation and rejuvenation. Nestled along the scenic East Coast Road (ECR) with a private beach, Sheraton Grand Chennai Resort & Spa offers the perfect retreat for relaxation and romance with offer running from 7th - 24th



Feb 2025.

Valentine's Spa Escape - A Romantic Indulgence Pamper yourself and your loved one with our chocolate body scrub, followed by an aromatic Ylang Ylang oil massage,

designed to melt away stress an express facial, setting the perfect therapy for relaxation.

Enhance the experience with fine wine and delicious chocolates, and enjoy an exclusive 20%

discount on additional salon services.

Duration: 120 mins. Tariff: INR 8499/- per person\* Love's More Save More - Pay for One, Get 50% Off for Your Partner Make this Valentine's even more special by sharing the joy of wellness. Book a spa treatment for yourself, and your partner enjoys 50% off their session. Select from a list of rejuvenating therapies and enjoy a perfect way to unwind and reconnect together.

## HOME AFFAIRS DELIVERS ON COMMITMENT TO SUPERCHARGE TOURISM AS TRUSTED TOUR OPERATOR SCHEME (TTOS) DIGITAL PLATFORM GOES LIVE

Chennai, 14 February 2025: -This platform will drive increased tourism from the major source markets of India and China by enabling vetted and approved tour operators to submit group applications for large tour groups from these two countries.

This addresses a long-standing obstacle to tourism growth, whereby long queues, red tape and the inability to process group applications timeously led to inefficiency in the issuing of visas for tourists from these countries.

To illustrate the scale of the change: before TTOS was created, there were only two South African missions in China, and only two missions in India, to serve the 2.8 billion



people living in those two countries who wanted to come as tourists to South Africa.

But under the new TTOS digital-first system, tourists from India and China who use approved tour operators will no longer have to visit a mission, will no longer fill in a single form, will not need to stand in a single.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Leon Schreiber, said: "The fact that Home Affairs took the TTOS from conceptualisation to implementation in less than six months demonstrates our commitment to

embracing digital transformation and to playing our role as an economic enabler to create jobs.

Research has shown that for every twelve new tourists attracted by TTOS, we can create one new job in South Africa. This demonstrates the power of Home Affairs' digital transformueue, and will receive their visas digitally within three days.

In 2023, South Africa only received 37 000 tourists from China and only 79 000 from India. By enhancing visa efficiency and security through

TTOS, Home Affairs looks forward to enabling much faster tourism growth from these two burgeoning source markets. ation agenda to create jobs."

Minister Schreiber added: "I want to acknowledge our in-house team of developers who built this system. I also want to thank the Minister in the Presidency, Khumbuzo Ntshaveni, as well as the Minister of Tourism, Patricia de Lille, for their support in rolling out this innovative new system in record time.

This shows the power of collaboration through the Government of National Unity as we pursue our apex priority to grow the economy and create jobs."

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## LOK SABHA SPEAKER TO INAUGURATE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR MEMBERS OF 15th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF HARYANA

Chennai, 14 February 2025: Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla will inaugurate a two day Orientation Programme for the newly elected Members of 15th Legislative Assembly of Haryana, in the State Legislature Premises, Chandigarh, on 14 February, 2025.

Chief Minister, Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini; Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly, Shri Harvinder Kalyan; Leader of Opposition in Haryana Legislative Assembly, Shri Bhupinder Singh

Hooda; Ministers in the State Government and Members of the Assembly will grace the occasion.

During the two day Orientation Programme, Union Ministers, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, Members of Parliament and domain experts will brief the Members of the Haryana Legislative Assembly on the following topics:

How to be an effective Legislator: Do's and Don'ts for Members; Legislative

and Financial Business Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Haryana Legislative Assembly Secretariat. Since 1981, when the first Orientation Programme for a State Legislature was organized for the newly elected Members of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, PRIDE has so far conducted 70 Orientation Courses, attended by more than 5032 Members of State Assemblies.

The Orientation Programme for the Members of the 15th Legislative Assembly of Haryana is being organised by the

Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), Lok Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with the Haryana Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Since 1981, when the first Orientation Programme for a State Legislature was organized for the newly elected Members of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, PRIDE has so far conducted 70 Orientation Courses, attended by more than 5032 Members of State Assemblies.

## MIA BY TANISHQ PARTNERS WITH SWIGGY INSTAMART TO DELIVER STUNNING SILVER JEWELLERY IN 10 MINUTES

Chennai 14, February 2025: Mia by Tanishq, one of India's trendiest precious fine jewellery brands, announces its collaboration with Swiggy Instamart, marking its entry into the burgeoning quick commerce space. Starting this week, Mia's exquisite silver jewellery collection will be available on Swiggy Instamart in more than 35 cities, including Gurgaon, Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, and Hyderabad.

The operations will be offering customers the convenience of doorstep delivery of silver jewellery in under 10 minutes.

This partnership leverages Swiggy Instamart's position as a market leader in quick commerce, known for its exceptional communication and operational excellence, to enhance the e-commerce experience for consumers. The collaboration aligns with Mia by Tanishq's strategy to expand its omni-channel presence, reaching new customers through diverse sales channels. As part of

this partnership, Mia will introduce a range of stunning silver jewellery catering to the growing demand for precious jewellery in the quick commerce market. Whether it's a special occasion or a thoughtful gift, Mia's silver jewellery promises to bring a touch of elegance and good fortune, delivered swiftly and seamlessly.

Sampurna Rakshit, Marketing & E-commerce Head - Mia by Tanishq, shared her thought on the collaboration: "This is an effort at our end to prioritise our consumers convenience and be present wherever the users are. Owing to Mia's exquisite design language coupled with our affordable pricing, we have always been India's favourite gift of choice. As quick commerce transforms the way India shops, consumers are also looking for stylish jewellery gifting options from trusted brands. So we are thrilled to partner with Swiggy Instamart, who can get many more consumers to access and experience our brand at their fingertips."

This strategic prioritizing collaboration ensures that growing trend in the Indian retail landscape, where quick commerce platforms are emerging as key touchpoints for consumers

This strategic prioritizing collaboration ensures that growing trend in the Indian retail landscape, where quick commerce platforms are emerging as key touchpoints for consumers

## APOLLO HOSPITALS REVOLUTIONIZES EPILEPSY CARE WITH ADVANCED SURGICAL PROGRAM, OFFERING NEW HOPE TO DRUG RESISTANT PATIENTS

Chennai 14, February 2025: Apollo Hospitals Chennai has launched an advanced Technology-led Epilepsy Surgery Program, strengthening its commitment to comprehensive neurological care.



This initiative combines cutting-edge technology with Apollo's extensive clinical expertise, and management of epilepsy. The program highlights Apollo Hospitals' extensive

dedication to medical excellence and innovation in healthcare.

This Epilepsy Surgery Program operates through the combined resources of Apollo Main Hospital

and Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, ensuring access to state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical technologies. The facility is equipped with a 3T MRI, soundproofed

video EEG suite, and PET CT scans, facilitating precise pre-surgical evaluation.

The program also incorporates advanced surgical adjuncts, including augmented reality-enabled neuro navigation, intraoperative ultrasound, intraoperative electrocorticography, and a high-precision operative microscope, ensuring the highest level of accuracy in epilepsy treatment.

## ONE POINT ONE SOLUTIONS REPORTS ROBUST FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN Q3 FY25

Mumbai 14, February 2025: One Point One Solutions (NSE: ONEPOINT), a leader in next-generation Business Process Management (BPM) services, has announced its financial results for the third quarter ending December 31, 2024, demonstrating robust performance across key financial indicators.

Total Income: Grew to ₹70.40 crore in Q3 FY25 from ₹42.11 crore in Q3 FY24, marking a substantial 67.18% year-on-year increase.

EBITDA: Increased 36.01% from ₹15.08 crore in Q3 FY24 to ₹20.51 crore in Q3 FY25.

PAT: Rose to ₹8.43 crore in Q3 FY25 up from ₹5.97 crore in Q3 FY24, reflecting a 41.21% year-on-year



growth.

Business Highlights:

Company is exploring potential acquisition in the USA, Latin America and the European region and has signed a non-binding term sheet with three potential target companies.

The company has successfully onboarded three renowned new clients to its portfolio during the quarter.

The company has secured a major contract with one of the leading banks in the country.

Management Comment:

Commenting on the results, Mr. Akshay Chhabra, Chairman & Managing Director said, "Our Q3 numbers reflect a positive performance with a substantial increase of 67.18% in total income. This growth is primarily driven by our global outsourcing initiatives, which includes the signing of a term sheet to acquire a U.S.-based healthcare company for \$45 million and a non-binding term sheet to acquire an India-based Business Process Consulting & Management (BPCM) for ₹261 crores. These initiatives align with our broader strategy

for potential acquisitions in the USA, Latin America, and Europe, where we've signed non-binding term sheets with three potential target companies. The company also witnessed a growth in its PAT by 41.21% this year, further underscoring our commitment to sustained growth and profitability."

Mr. Chhabra further added, "We've also onboarded renowned clients from the Banking, E-Sports and Fleet management sectors, further strengthening our market presence and service capabilities."

The Financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2024 are available in the Investor Relations section of our website www.lpoint1.com

## INDIAN LIFE INSURERS REGISTER RECORD NEW BUSINESS FIGURES IN JANUARY 2025; PREMIUM COLLECTION SWELL BY 7.78%

Mumbai 14, February 2025: The Life Insurance Council has released updated industry business numbers for January 2025, revealing positive trends in key areas.

New business premiums (NBPs) underwritten by Indian life insurers have achieved a YTD growth of 7.78% compared to the same period last year. YTD collections grew from ₹283833.52 Crs to ₹305912.09 Crs this year.

The life insurance industry saw individual single premiums growing by 16.26% on a Y-o-Y basis, closing at ₹4127.67 Crs for Jan'25, with YTD

growth at 14%.

Individual non-single premiums reached ₹10632.32 Crs, growing by 10.52% in Jan'25, and YTD collections settled at 14% higher than the corresponding period last year.

This strong performance can be ascribed to the fact that life insurers are increasingly focusing on encouraging first-time life insurance buyers to buy

essential life insurance solutions, contributing to the 12.07% growth in combined individual premium collections for the month of Jan'25 and 14% growth on a YTD basis.



The life insurance industry in India has been making significant strides forward by expanding access to insurance and making an effort to reach out to areas and segments of the

country's population that were previously underserved when it comes to their insurance needs. Towards this end, life insurers added more than 872055 individual life insurance agents, with an overall 4.82% growth in cumulative agent count.

Still, the sustained pace of agent addition is being complimented by the high speed of digitisation by life insurers, paving the way for additional gains in insurance penetration that should provide a significant boost to new business premiums in FY25 and beyond.



## SAMPOORNA BIMA GRAM YOJANA

Chennai 14, February 2025: Bima Gram Yojana is an initiative of Department of Posts to provide life insurance to the people living in rural areas. Under Bima Gram Yojana, a minimum of 100 households in each of the identified villages are to be brought under the coverage of at least one Rural Postal Life

Insurance (RPLI) policy in each household.

The premium paying capacity of a person is one of the critical elements in implementation of the initiative. Bima Gram Yojana is a continuous process. Further, 46739 villages have been covered under Bima Gram Yojana so far. Various steps have

been taken by the Government to create awareness among rural population about the advantages of taking Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policy. Promotion and publicity of PLI and RPLI is done by way of advertisement through social media campaigns, radio jingles, outdoor

publicity and organisation of awareness camps and melas throughout the country.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

## NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION 2.0

Chennai 14, February 2025: The Government has taken the following key actions to improve broadband connectivity in rural areas:

Launched the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal on May 14, 2022, thus streamlining Right of Way (RoW) permissions for quick Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) laying and telecom tower setup, reducing approval time.

The Telecommunications Act 2023 and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024, effective from January 01, 2025, introduced uniform RoW charges nationwide, expediting

Telecom Infrastructure deployment.

The National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0, which will start from April 01, 2025, shall facilitate to tackle challenges of broadband connectivity in remote and difficult areas through several initiatives:

Promoting satellite broadband for effective, competitive connectivity in rural and remote areas.

Coordinating with the Ministry of Power to use Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) from the power sector to enhance connectivity in hilly and remote regions.

Further, the Department of

Telecommunications (DoT) is ensuring stable broadband connectivity in rural areas with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). Key initiatives include:

The Bharat Net project, provides broadband to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages. As of January 13, 2025, 2,14,323 GPs are service-ready.

Various schemes for high-speed internet and mobile services (including 4G) in remote areas, such as the Northeast, Islands, LWE-affected regions, Aspirational Districts, and border villages.

Submarine optical fiber cables were laid between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar (2312 km) and Kochi

and Lakshadweep (1869 km), enabling faster rollout of 4G/5G services.

Various telecom assets are mapped on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) National Master Plan (NMP) platform in addition to 1600+ layers of different Ministries/department s. The usage of PMGS NMP tools and other mapped telecom assets will aid in the effective planning of additional Bharat Net projects.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

## INDIAN STANDARDS SHOULD BE ACCORDED TOP PRIORITY: CENTRE

Chennai 14, February 2025 : Implementation of Indian Standards should be accorded top priority, said Smt. Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India while chairing an inter-ministerial meeting on Implementation of Standards - Bringing more products under Quality Control Orders (QCOs) in New Delhi.

The Secretary emphasized on the role of QCOs in achieving the aim of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' considering its twin objectives of uplifting quality ecosystem in domestic market and curbing sub-standard imports. Referring to the speech by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 78th Independence Day, wherein a thrust on Indian Standards has been envisioned to make Indian products stand out in the global market, she appealed to all the Ministries to prioritise Indian Standards.

The discussions during the meeting focused on the importance of Standards and its benefits through QCOs, which enforce mandatory compliance to standards for various products and play a vital role in protecting public health & safety and enhancing the competitiveness of industry, particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The implementation of QCOs provides these businesses with a level playing field by ensuring that all market players meet the same quality standards. This initiative not only boosts the competitiveness of MSMEs in the domestic market, but also facilitates access to global markets, opening up new avenues for growth and exports.

The meeting witnessed participation from representatives of nearly 17 Union Ministries and

Departments, including Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), and Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), among others.

The Department of Consumer Affairs briefed on the positive impact of the Quality Control Order (QCO) on the toys industry. The introduction of the QCO for Toys has led to remarkable improvements in both safety and quality standards for toys manufactured and sold in India.

The status of 628 products which are under consideration at the Ministries/

Departments for bringing them under QCOs was also reviewed during the meeting. The discussions concluded with consensus for expediting the timelines for implementing QCOs for these products, which will further strengthen India's commitment to improving product quality and impetus on Atma Nirbhar Bharat across different sectors.

Compliance with standards is voluntary unless made mandatory under Section 16 of the BIS Act, 2016. All ministries and departments of the Government are empowered in this regard. A detailed stakeholder consultation is carried out with industry before notifying and implementing QCOs.

Bureau of Indian Standards is the National Standards Body and is responsible for standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.

## COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA MILESTONE FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE: SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV, UNION MINISTER OF STATE (IC) MINISTRY OF AYUSH

Chennai 14, February 2025 : The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of Indonesia, Mr. Prabowo Subianto witnessed Exchange of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Indonesia on January 25, 2025 at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi.

One of the MoU exchanged between India and Indonesia is in the Field of Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance between Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy, Ministry of Ayush and Indonesian Food and Drug Authority.

Highlighting the importance of the MoU exchanged between India and Indonesia in the Field of Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance between Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy, Ministry of Ayush and Indonesian Food and Drug Authority on 25.01.2025, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav said that the MoU is set to elevate global standards.

PM Shri Narendra Modi and the President of Indonesia, Mr. Prabowo Subianto witnessing the Exchange of MoUs between India and Indonesia at



Hyderabad House, in New Delhi, on January 25, 2025

Further highlighting the significance of the MoU, the Shri Prataprao Jadhav stated "This collaboration will play a crucial role in ensuring the safety, efficacy, and quality of traditional medicines, setting the stage for a more integrated and scientifically-regulated approach to this valuable healthcare system."

Underlining the key features of the MoU, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha stated, "Through this strategic collaboration, we are fostering greater knowledge exchange, capacity building, and strengthening the role of traditional medicine in global healthcare."

Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy (PCIM&H) is an IS/ISO 9001:2015 certified institution for Quality Management Systems (QMS) dedicated to establishing and maintaining standards for Indian medicine and homoeopathy.

This partnership

between the premier institutions will significantly benefit all stakeholders.

This strategic partnership focuses on fostering collaboration in traditional medicine quality assurance, with both parties committing to various forms of cooperation. Key provisions of the MoU include:

Exchange of information and expertise on regulatory provisions for traditional medicine.

Capacity-building initiatives such as seminars, workshops, and training programs aimed at enhancing professional knowledge and skills.

Technical visits to facilitate familiarisation with the regulatory processes of both countries.

Joint participation in international events related to traditional medicine.

Collaboration on joint training programs for industries or entities involved in the traditional medicine sector.

Expansion of cooperation into other mutually agreed areas.

This collaboration reflects the growing

global recognition of traditional medicine's importance in healthcare and wellness. With its deep-rooted cultural and medicinal heritage, India and Indonesia are committed to advancing the standards and quality of traditional medicine.

The MoU also signifies a shared vision for ensuring the safety, efficacy, and accessibility of traditional medicine, paving the way for further collaboration between India and Indonesia and setting an example for other nations in embracing the integration of traditional systems of medicine within modern healthcare frameworks.

Notably, the MoU exchanged on 25.01.2025 in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the President of Indonesia by the Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, and the Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, marks a historic milestone in the bilateral relations between the two nations. This partnership between India and Indonesia highlights the importance of both nations working together to preserve and innovate within their rich medicinal traditions, contributing to the growing recognition and acceptance of traditional medicine globally.

## E-MOBILITY PROMOTION SCHEME 2024

Chennai 14, February 2025 : Yes, Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024 notified vide Gazette Notification 1334 (E) dated 13.03.2024 was launched with an aim to provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

The scheme has since been subsumed in the PM Electric



Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme which was notified vide Gazette Notification 4259 (E) dated 29.09.2024.

The PM E-DRIVE scheme's duration is

till 31.03.2026. The scheme intends to provide subsidy to over 28 lakh EVs including e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-trucks, e-ambulances and e-buses, which will reduce India's dependence on fossil

fuels and mitigate carbon emissions.

PM E-DRIVE scheme is being implemented on pan-India basis, covering both rural and marginalized areas of the country.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Shri Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.