

**CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER RAM MOHAN NAIDU LAUNCHES DIGITAL LICENSE FOR PILOTS**

Chennai, 21 February 2025: Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Sh. Ram Mohan Naidu today launched the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for Pilots, a ground-breaking initiative set to modernize and enhance the safety, security and efficiency of India's civil aviation sector. With this advancement, India becomes the second country globally to implement this advanced system, following approval from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).



The introduction of EPL follows ICAO's Amendment 178 to Annex 1 – Personnel Licensing, which encourages Member States to adopt electronic licenses for improved security and efficiency. While major global aviation leaders, are still in the process of implementing similar systems, India has successfully taken the lead in digital aviation solutions.

The EPL is a digital version of a personnel license that will replace traditional physical licenses for pilots. It will be securely accessible via the eGCA Mobile Application, ensuring a seamless and transparent process in alignment with the Government of India's "Ease of Doing Business" and "Digital India" initiatives.

The Union Minister remarked, "With the unprecedented growth of India's aviation sector, we will need approximately 20,000 pilots in the near future. Pilots are the backbone of civil aviation, and with eGCA and EPL, we are leveraging

Additionally, this shift will have a positive impact on environmental sustainability by reducing paper and plastic usage.

The Minister, also highlighted other transformative initiatives for reshaping Indian aviation through digital innovation and making operations more efficient. Key advancements include the eGCA platform for streamlined licensing, the Digital Sky Platform for drones, and the Electronic Flight Folder (EFF) for airline operations.

The introduction of the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for pilots represents a significant milestone in establishing a globally recognized regulatory framework. It strengthens India's position as a global leader in aviation innovation and ensuring a more robust and tamper-proof licensing system.

**REKHA GUPTA SWORN-IN AS DELHI CHIEF MINISTER**

Chennai, 21 February 2025: BJP's debutant legislator Rekha Gupta, a first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh, took oath as Delhi Chief Minister today.



Along with Ms. Gupta, Parvesh Verma, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Kapil Mishra, Ravinder Indraj Singh, Kapil Mishra and Pankaj Singh were also administered the oath of office by Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena.

The ceremony at the Ramlila Ground was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the top BJP brass and NDA Chief Ministers. Ms. Gupta is Delhi's fourth woman Chief Minister. The 50-year-old MLA from Shalimar Bagh is also the only woman in the NDA team of Chief Ministers. The new

Chief Minister and her Ministers headed to the Delhi Secretariat to take charge of their offices after the oath ceremony.

Among those who attended the event were Chief Ministers of States ruled by the BJP and its NDA allies - Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis, Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu, Goa's Pramod Sawant, Haryana's Nayab Singh Saini and Meghalaya's Conrad Sangma.

Deputy Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, and Andhra Pradesh's Pawan Kalyan were

present too.

She was chosen as the new Delhi Chief Minister at the BJP Legislature Party meeting that was held at its national headquarters on Wednesday (February 19, 2025) evening.

Gupta, a three-time Municipal Councillor who was active in student politics, was a surprise choice. She beat a number of probable candidates, including Parvesh Verma who had defeated Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi constituency, three-term MLA and former Leader of the Opposition (LoP)

Vijender Gupta, and former Delhi BJP president Satish Upadhyay.

"It is a huge responsibility. I thank PM Modi and BJP high command for having faith in me... I will fulfil my responsibility with utmost honesty... My first priority is to complete all the commitments our party has made, and the second priority is that all our 48 MLAs will work as a team Modi. I never thought I would be a CM of Delhi," Ms. Gupta had said.

A grassroots leader with an RSS ABVP background, she began her political journey while she was a B.Com student at Delhi University's Daulat Ram College. She joined the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in 1992.

**CM OPENS NEW WAREHOUSES, PADDY PROCUREMENT CENTRES**

Chennai, 21 February 2025: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated several newly constructed warehouses and storage facilities built at a cost of Rs.92.45 crore under the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC). The new infrastructure includes six district-level processing warehouses, 11 direct paddy procurement centers, and four modern paddy storage facilities with roofing. In addition to inaugurating these facilities, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for six additional district-level

Warehouses: 84,000 metric tons of storage capacity built at a cost of Rs.155.28 crore. Direct Paddy Procurement Centers: 63 centers developed with an investment of Rs.39.37 crore. Modern Paddy Storage Facilities with Roofing: 2,82,750 metric tons of storage created at a cost of Rs.236.09 crore.

In addition, 11 direct paddy procurement centers have been set up across 11 villages in Tiruvavur, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, and Pudukkottai districts at a total cost of Rs.6.87 crore. The state

government has also invested Rs.58.61 crore in four modern paddy storage facilities with roofing, ensuring the safe storage of harvested paddy. These facilities are located in: These facilities aim to prevent wastage of paddy procured from farmers, aligning with the Chief Minister's vision of ensuring food security and efficient storage under the Public Distribution System. The government continues to take proactive measures to strengthen food grain storage, distribution, and sales mechanisms in Tamil Nadu.

**STALIN URGES MODI TO RELEASE FUNDS UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA**

Chennai, 21 February 2025: Chief Minister Stalin urged the Prime Minister Modi to release of Rs.2,152 crores of Samagra Shiksha funds for Tamil Nadu for 2024-25 released immediately, without linking it to the implementation of NEP 2020. Considering the sensitivity of the issue, I look forward to your personal intervention in this regard.



In his letter to Modi Stalin said, "I write to express my deep concern over the recent remarks of the Hon'ble Union Minister for Education indicating that 'Samagra Shiksha' funds for Tamil Nadu would not be released until the State implements 'National Education Policy (NEP) 2020' in its entirety and adopts the three-language policy. This has created immense anxiety and unrest among students, political parties and the general public in our State.

For many decades, Tamil Nadu has always been steadfast in its two-language policy, which is deeply rooted in our educational and social milieu. Hence, the State has been exempted from implementing "The Official Languages Act, 1963", as mentioned in The Official Languages Rules, 1976. Even Central schools like Navodaya Vidyalayas, which follow the three-language policy, have not been established in Tamil Nadu because of the opposition to it.

The tremendous strides made by our State in the last half century and its trendsetting initiatives can be traced back to our progressive policy making, built on this two-language policy

and social justice. The above would clearly exemplify that any change in our two-language policy is non-negotiable for our State and our people. I would like to reiterate that linking the two different Centrally Sponsored Schemes SSA and the NEP exemplar PM SHRI Schools is fundamentally unacceptable. And the Union Government's usage of such fund releases as a pressure tactic to coerce a State into adopting centrally mandated programs against its own time-tested State policies is a blatant violation of cooperative federalism.

This will grossly undermine the States' rights to shape their own education policies, based on a

State's specific needs.

Due to non-release of funds under ongoing scheme, several vital components towards teacher salaries, student welfare programs, inclusive education initiatives,

RTE reimbursements for underprivileged students and transport for students in remote areas have been jeopardised. Therefore, in the interest of cooperative federalism and welfare of lakhs of students and teachers, I urge you to intervene in this matter. To dissipate the unrest caused due to this issue, Rs.2,152 crores of Samagra Shiksha funds for Tamil Nadu for 2024-25 may be released immediately, without linking it to the implementation of NEP 2020. Considering the sensitivity of the issue, I look forward to your personal intervention in this regard, Stalin said.

**PRIME MINISTER GREETS THE PEOPLE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH ON THEIR STATEHOOD DAY**

Chennai, 21 February 2025: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has extended his greetings to the people of Arunachal Pradesh on their Statehood Day. Shri Modi also said that Arunachal Pradesh is known for its rich traditions and deep connection to nature. The hardworking and dynamic people of Arunachal Pradesh continue to contribute

immensely to India's growth, while their vibrant tribal heritage and breathtaking biodiversity make the state truly special. May Arunachal Pradesh continue to flourish, and may its journey of progress and harmony continue to soar in the years to come. The Prime Minister posted on X: "Greetings to the people of Arunachal Pradesh on their Statehood Day! This state is known for its rich traditions and deep connection to nature.



The hardworking and dynamic people of Arunachal Pradesh continue to contribute

immensely to India's growth, while their vibrant tribal heritage and breathtaking biodiversity make the state truly special. May Arunachal Pradesh continue to flourish, and may its journey of progress and harmony continue to soar in the years to come."



## UPGRADATION AND MAKEOVER OF ST. THOMAS MOUNT STATION IS NEARING COMPLETION

Chennai, 21 February 2025: St. Thomas Mount Station, located in the Chennai Beach – Tambaram section, is set to undergo a major transformation to cater to the growing needs and aspirations of commuters. The station is so named being near St. Thomas Mount Hilllock. Due to its strategic location in a bustling commercial area, the station plays a significant role in facilitating swift connectivity across the city.

### Importance of St. Thomas Mount Station for Commuters

St. Thomas Mount Railway station holds significant importance not only as a transportation hub but also as a serving station for visitors to the St. Thomas Mount Church, a popular religious site. With an average footfall of 25,000 passengers per day, the station handles 201 EMU trains that stop at the station besides 98 Express trains passing through the station.

With its connectivity with the nearing intermodal hub, integrating suburban rail, Chennai Metro and MTC services, its importance will increase as a major multimodal hub to provide seamless movement for passengers. The ongoing upgradation of this station will elevate the travel experience for daily commuters, besides boosting accessibility to key city areas.

**Upgradation Highlights:** Being done at an estimated cost of Rs.14.15 Crores, St. Thomas Mount



Railway station Upgradation project aims to modernize the station's infrastructure and improve passenger amenities.

**Improvement to Station Facades:** Enhancing the façade aesthetics on both the east and west sides of the station and entry arches on the bus stop side.

**New Booking Windows:** Cater to growing passenger demand

**Pedestrian Plaza:** A newly developed pedestrian plaza with signages to improve accessibility and convenience

**Platform Upgrades:** Resurfacing the flooring for all platforms and providing additional platform shelters

**Parking Area Redevelopment:** Renovating the parking areas and strengthening the floors on both the main entry side and CMRL side.

**Passenger Information System:** Passenger Information Display Boards and an improved Public Announcement System

**Security Improvements:** Installation of CCTV cameras to enhance passenger safety and security Work in progress and Timeline -

The project is in an advanced stage of completion and is targeted for completion by March 2025.

**Benefits to Commuters:** Enhanced facilities: The upgraded facilities including improved platforms, new booking offices, additional platform shelters, parking and vehicle fences will make travel convenient and comfortable for passengers and enhance the overall passenger experience besides increased footfall boosting local economic development of the surrounding region.

**Improved connectivity:** With commissioning of MRTC connectivity with Velachery and Metro station at St. Thomas Mount, the ease of travel from and to nearby commercial areas and places of worship such as St. Thomas Mount Church, which will attract more visitors and tourists, further supporting local businesses and improving livelihoods in the area.

**Intermodal Transportation:** St. Thomas Mount is designed to become an important multi-modal

junction in Chennai where several rail systems intersect:

The existing MRTS (Mass Rapid Transit System) line that runs from Chennai Beach – Velachery will be extended upto St. Thomas Mount

Chennai Metro's existing corridors, viz., the Green line from Central Metro to St. Thomas Mount and the Blue line from Wimco Nagar to Airport Metro pass via St. Thomas Mount.

The Upcoming Chennai Metro Red line which connects Madhavaram to Sholinganallur passes through St. Thomas Mount suburban railway line. The nearest metro stations to St. Thomas Mount in the Red corridor are:

Alandur (north), Adambakkam (south)

Thus, the St. Thomas Mount Junction is significant because it allows passengers to transfer between different rail systems - MRTS, Metro, and suburban rail - making it an important transit hub for south Chennai.

The project will be completed by the end of March 2025, marking a significant milestone in improving Chennai City's transportation infrastructure.

## HDFC LIFE WINS ICAI AWARD FOR BEST FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR 2023-24

Chennai, 21 February 2025: HDFC Life, one of India's leading life insurers, is proud to announce that it has been awarded the Silver Shield in Category-III – Life Insurance at the ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting 2023-24.

This prestigious award was presented to HDFC Life by Honourable Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, at the ICAI Awards ceremony held in New Delhi.

Organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) since 1958, these awards recognise companies that demonstrate outstanding financial reporting standards.

The esteemed jury



selects winners after a thorough review of the accounting practices adopted in financial statements, disclosure policies, and presentation of financial statements. The top two winners are chosen on their adherence to Indian Accounting Standards, statutory guidelines, and regulatory requirements.

What makes this recognition even more special is that HDFC Life is the only life insurance company to feature among the awardees this year.

HDFC Life has been on a continuous journey to financially secure Indian citizens by offering a wide range of life insurance solutions. Since its inception, the company has provided financial protection to millions of customers and their families, serving as a safety net in times of need while enabling them to achieve their long-term financial goals. The company's commitment to its policyholders is reflected in its 99.5% claim settlement ratio for FY24.

Speaking on the

award, Niraj Shah – Executive Director & CFO, HDFC Life, said, "This is a proud moment for all of us at HDFC Life. This award reinforces our values of transparency and good governance. At HDFC Life, we are committed not only to financial security of our customers but also to sustainable and responsible business practices. We continue to strengthen our governance framework while driving long-term value for our stakeholders and contributing towards a more resilient future."

## FLIPKART VENTURES FUELS INNOVATION WITH INVESTMENT IN FIVE PROMISING STARTUPS

Chennai, 21 February 2025: Flipkart Ventures, the investment arm of Flipkart, has announced the selection of five innovative startups for the third cohort of Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA). The flagship startup accelerator program by Flipkart focuses on enabling technological synergy within the startup landscape and accelerating the growth of early-stage startups. Building on the success of the previous two cohorts, this edition introduces startups driving advancements in AI and tech based enablement.

Through the FLA program, these early-stage startups will receive equity investments up to \$500,000 along with a customized mentorship program designed by a global consulting firm. Additionally, participants gain strategic mentorship and industry expertise from Flipkart leaders across business, product, technology, and finance, enabling them to refine their models and scale



efficiently in competitive and dynamic markets. The program culminates in a demo day, offering startups a platform to present their progress and secure further investment opportunities. Participants were evaluated on business model, traction, growth potential, and vision, with top companies standing out for their strong product vision, and focus on solving real world problems.

Lubna Ahmed, Vice President & Head of Flipkart Ventures, said, "Through Flipkart Leap Ahead, we continue to act as a driving force in India's startup ecosystem, fostering a culture of innovation and providing early-stage companies with the capital, mentorship, and strategic network they need to succeed. By nurturing these startups, we aim to

output linkages

Visa2Fly – A travel tech platform streamlining visa applications with end-to-end support, including documentation, processing, and travel assistance

Since its inception, Flipkart Ventures has scaled notably and has backed more than 20 startups across deep tech, fintech, health tech, generative AI, and sustainability. As these startups scale, Flipkart Ventures remains steadfast in its endeavour to drive innovation, enabling the development of transformative solutions that redefine industry standards.

The Flipkart Leap Ahead program exemplifies Flipkart's dedication to nurturing groundbreaking technology and strengthening India's startup ecosystem. Flipkart Ventures recently signed an MOU with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to invest in, support, and empower tech start-ups across India.

## ANNUAL SPORTS DAY AWARD FUNCTION AT SRM IST VADAPALANI (FEBRUARY 20, 2025)

Chennai, 21 February 2025: On 20th February, 2025, The Department of Physical Education, Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, conducted Annual Sports day Award Function and prizes were distributed to the winners of the sports competition conducted from 22nd January to 25th January, 2025.

More than 1000 students participated in the competition and won prizes in games



like volleyball, basketball, football, cricket, badminton, throwball, table tennis, chess, carrom, and yoga.

The overall championship in both men and women competition were bagged by the

Department of Commerce. The award function commenced with the welcome address delivered by Dr. C.V. Jayakumar, Dean Ic, SRM IST, FSH, Vadapalani and Inaugural address was delivered by Prof. R. Mohana Krishnan,

Director Sports, SRM IST. Mr. A. Muthusamy, Inspector of Income Tax, Chennai graced the occasion and distributed prizes to the winners. He shared his experience and motivated the students to participate in all the sports events. The event concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Ms. T. Thenmozhi, Physical Director, FSH, SRM IST, Vadapalani. Students enthusiastically participated in the events and cheered for the winners.



## 'FIRE' MOVIE ACHIEVES MASSIVE SUCCESS: DIRECTOR-PRODUCER JSK THANKS ALL

Chennai, 21 February 2025: Film crew celebrates the success of 'Fire' in audience's presence, JSK presents a gold chain to protagonist Balaji Murugadoss

'Fire' enters second week of its triumphant run; Screens, shows continue to increase

Successful film distributor, producer and actor JSK, who has made a strong mark as a director with the huge success of 'Fire' released last week, celebrated the success of the film with the movie crew in front of the audience at Kasi Talkies in Chennai last night (February 19).

Following the screening, which ran to a packed house even on a weekday night, the team, with the enthusiastic support of theater management and the thunderous applause of fans, celebrated the film's victory by cutting a cake.



Prominent public members of the cast and crew, including JSK, lead actor Balaji Murugadoss, Sakshi Agarwal, Chandini Tamilarasan, Anu and Jeeva attended the event. As a token of appreciation, JSK presented a gold chain to Balaji Murugadoss for his performance in the film.

Expressing his gratitude, JSK stated: "I extend my heartfelt thanks to the general

an overwhelming crowd, prompting theater owners to increase the number of shows and screens in the second week. This is the true mark of success. I dedicate this victory to the people who transformed a small film into a big hit."

JSK also emphasized that the success of 'Fire' has provided a significant boost to him and his team, reinforcing their commitment to deliver more quality films in the future.

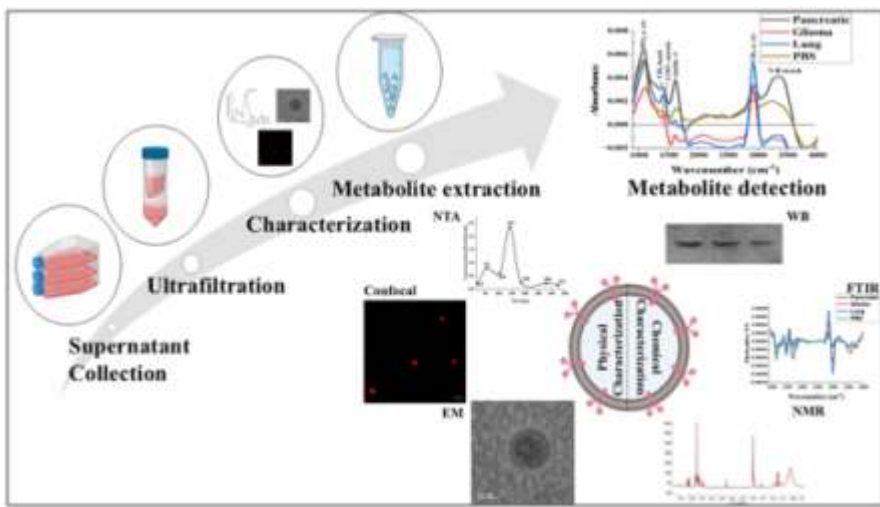
Produced and directed by JSK under the banner of JSK Film Corporation, 'Fire' has received widespread acclaim from audiences and critics alike. With an engaging storyline, powerful performances, and an unexpected climax, the film has captured the hearts of moviegoers, ensuring its continued success in theaters.

Even on weekdays, theaters are witnessing

## COMMON BIOMARKER FOR RANGE OF CANCERS OFFERS POTENTIAL NON-INVASIVE METHOD FOR EARLY CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Chennai, 21 February 2025: Researchers have identified some common metabolites across cancer types like pancreatic and glioma cancer that develops in the glial cells of the brain and spinal cord, suggesting their potential as universal cancer biomarkers. This offers a potential non-invasive method for early cancer diagnosis as well as therapeutic strategies for cancer.

Aggressive cancers like pancreatic and glioma cancers often diagnosed late and having poor prognoses. Hence there is an urgent need for non-invasive, reliable cancer biomarkers to address significant gaps in cancer diagnostics and therapeutics, particularly for aggressive cancers like pancreatic and glioma, which lack early detection methods. Nanomessengers (Exosomes), as carriers of tumour-derived metabolites, provide a unique opportunity to explore



the tumour microenvironment (TME).

A team of scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), including Ms. Nandini Bajaj and Dr. Deepika Sharma, have identified metabolites in exosomes derived from pancreatic cancer, lung cancer and glioma cancer cell line, offering potential universal biomarkers resulting in enhanced clinical applicability. Additionally, insights into metabolic interactions within the tumour microenvironment (TME) provide a foundation

for targeted therapies.

The researchers utilized a multi-technique approach combining Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis (NTA), Electron Microscopy (EM), Western Blot (WB), Fourier Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), untargeted Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), providing a comprehensive characterization of exosomes, surpassing conventional single-method studies. The study advances cancer diagnostics, personalized medicine, and our understanding of cancer progression

mechanisms.

These metabolites identified highlight dysregulated pathways in the tumour microenvironment (TME), also gives insights on how the cancer progresses and enables non-invasive and precise cancer detection and therapeutic targeting. The research published in the journal Nanoscale can lead to targeted therapies that disrupt dysregulated metabolic pathways in tumours, enhancing treatment efficacy and potentially reducing side effects. This advancement could significantly improve patient outcomes, especially through personalized, precision medicine approaches.

## CCI GROUP INVESTS ADDITIONAL ₹640 CRORE IN A GRADE-A LOGISTICS PARK IN POLIVAKKAM, CHENNAI

Chennai, 21 February 2025: CCI Group, India's leading 4PL Integrated Logistics and Supply Chain Company, announces an additional investment of approximately ₹640 crore in the development of a Grade-A logistics park spanning 20 lakh square feet in Phase 2, Polivakkam, Chennai. This follows the company's earlier investment of ₹250 crore in Phase 1, reinforcing its commitment to expanding world-class logistics infrastructure in the region.



With this latest investment, CCI Group has now allocated a total of ₹890 crore towards the Polivakkam logistics hub, positioning it as a key player in India's Warehousing and Supply Chain ecosystem.

This expansion is strategically structured into two segments, Phase 2A, a standard requirement facility set to be operational by mid-2025, and Phase 2B, dedicated to built-to-suit (BTS) solutions tailored to industry-specific needs.

With Chennai emerging as a key logistics and supply chain hub in South India, this modern facility will cater to a diverse range of Industries, including E-

commerce, Automotive, FMCG, and Manufacturing. Built to global standards, it will feature FM2 flooring for enhanced load-bearing capacity and seamless goods movement, automated shutters, and passive air ventilation ensuring six air changes per hour for improved air quality.

The facility is thoughtfully designed to provide optimal space utilisation, enabling clients to efficiently plan their heavy-load racking systems and high-clearance bays, ensuring operational efficiency across various sectors. While the facility does not include pre-built temperature-controlled zones, they can be customised under the Tenant Improvement Scheme (TIS) to meet specific requirements. Designed for flexibility, the facility will operate on a plug-and-play model, allowing businesses to quickly deploy and scale operations with ease. As part of CCI Group's commitment to sustainability, the facility will integrate a

Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to treat wastewater, which will be reused for gardening and flushing needs. Additionally, Solar Power systems will be installed as a step towards green energy, reducing reliance on conventional power sources. Built-in skylights will further enhance energy efficiency by maximizing natural lighting.

For enhanced safety, the facility will be integrated with advanced fire protection systems, including hydrants, sprinklers, and fire alarms.

Currently, CCI Group is serving over 1,000 clients across diverse industries such as E-commerce, Retail, Chemical, FMCG, Healthcare & Pharma and Automotive. With 48 years of industry expertise, the company has built a strong nationwide presence across 48 cities, managing more than 15 million square feet of owned warehouses and logistics parks. Its operations are driven by a skilled workforce

of over 1,000 professionals and a fleet of 1,200+ vehicles. Moreover, CCI has also expanded its footprint globally, operating in over 105 countries, while maintaining a significant presence at more than 20 airports and seaports across India.

With this investment, CCI Group reinforces its commitment to expanding its logistics infrastructure while prioritizing efficiency, sustainability, and future-ready solutions for India's growing supply chain needs. Speaking on the announcement, Naresh Sharma, Managing Director, CCI Group said, "Polivakkam is a key hub in CCI's long-term expansion plans. The region is steadily becoming a logistics hotspot due to its proximity to the Sriperumbudur-Oragadam industrial cluster. By establishing this new facility, CCI Group wants to attract industries reliant on high-quality storage facilities and also strengthen the economy in the region. This expansion not only enhances our logistical capabilities but also underscores our unwavering commitment to provide scalable and flexible solutions to clients that align with global standards."

## DEVOTEES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE IN LARGE NUMBERS AT TRIVENI SANGAM

Chennai, 21 February 2025: Devotees continued to arrive in large numbers at Triveni Sangam on Thursday to take a holy dip during the ongoing Mahakumbh Mela at Prayagraj. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while addressing the Assembly on Wednesday, emphasized the grandeur of the Maha

Kumbh in Prayagraj and condemned the spread of misinformation against Sanatan Dharma, Maa Ganga, and India.

"While we are participating in the discussion here, more than 56.25 crore devotees have already taken their holy dip in Prayagraj... When we make baseless

allegations or spread fake videos against Sanatan Dharma, Maa Ganga, India, or the Maha Kumbh, it is like playing with the faith of these 56 crore people," he said. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Tejasvi Surya attended the Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj on

Wednesday. After taking holy dip in Triveni Sangam, BJP MP Surya interacted with the media and said he was blessed to take the 'Sangam'snan alongside hundreds of BJYM workers. He added that people from all the parts of the world have come here and praised the Yogi Adityanath government for organising the event.

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## LANKAN NAVY ARRESTS 10 FISHERMEN FROM RAMESWARAM

Chennai 21, February 2025: Ten fishermen from Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, were arrested, and three trawlers were seized by the Sri Lankan Navy on Wednesday night (February 19, 2025) for alleged poaching.

According to Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department officials, 474 fishing tokens were issued from the Rameswaram harbour

on Wednesday, with the fishermen expected to return by 3 p.m. the same day. However, past midnight, a Sri Lankan Navy surveillance team apprehended three trawlers, claiming they had crossed the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). The detained fishermen were later taken to the Naval Port. Harbour police in Ramanathapuram district confirmed that

the arrested fishermen were from Thangachinadam and Rameswaram. The incident follows a recent demonstration by the DMK in Ramanathapuram, criticizing the Union government for not taking effective measures to prevent the recurring arrests of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. DMK MP K. Kanimozhi stated that the fishermen have urged the Centre to facilitate direct talks with their counterparts from Sri Lanka's Northern Province to find a resolution. Fishermen leaders noted that since the start of 2025, nearly 90 fishermen have been arrested, and over 10 trawlers seized. Additionally, Sri Lankan courts have imposed heavy fines and jail terms on those accused of repeat offenses.

## PRIME MINISTER INTERNSHIP SCHEME (PMIS) ONCE AGAIN OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS WITH THE LAUNCH OF ROUND 2 OF PILOT PHASE

Chennai 21, February 2025: The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) is once again open for applications with the launch of Round 2 of the pilot phase. After more than 6 lakh applications in Round 1, Round 2 offers more than 1 lakh+ internship opportunities in top companies across more than 730 districts in India.

More than 300 top companies across sectors including Oil, Gas & Energy; Banking and Financial Services, Travel & Hospitality, Automotive, Metals & Mining Manufacturing & Industrial, Fast-Moving Consumer

Goods (FMCG) and many more have offered internship opportunities to Indian youth to gain real-world experience, network with professionals and enhance their employability.

Eligible youth can explore and select internships based on their preferred district, state, sector, area and filter internships within a customisable radius from their specified current address. In round 2, each applicant can apply to up to 3 internships until the application deadline.

For round 2, more than 70 IEC events are being conducted across India in districts with maximum number of

internship opportunities in top companies of India.

The scheme targets individuals aged 21 to 24 who are currently not enrolled in any full-time academic program or employment, offering them a unique chance to kick-start their careers.

Each intern will be supported with monthly financial assistance of ₹5,000, supplemented by one-time financial assistance of ₹6,000. Each internship will be a combination of relevant training and professional experience (at least six months) to ensure that candidates learn and can also apply their skills in real-world settings.

Further, national level digital campaigns are underway through multiple platforms as well as influencers based on concentration of opportunities and relevance to youth.

Eligible youth can apply here: <https://pminternship.mca.gov.in>. The Prime Minister Internship Scheme - spearheaded by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs - is designed to harness the potential of India's youth population by providing them with 12 month paid internships

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SIGNS ₹697.35 CR CONTRACTS WITH ACE LTD & JCB INDIA LTD FOR PROCUREMENT OF 1868 ROUGH TERRAIN FORK LIFT TRUCK FOR ARMED FORCES

Chennai 21, February 2025: The Ministry of Defence has signed contracts with M/s ACE Limited and M/s JCB India Limited in presence of Defence Secretary Shri R K Singh for procurement of quantity 1868 Rough Terrain Fork Lift Truck (RTFLT) at a total cost of ₹697.35 crore for Indian Army, Indian Airforce and Indian Navy. Rough Terrain Fork Lift Truck (RTFLT) is a critical



equipment which will assist in various combat and logistics support tasks by avoiding manual handling of enormous number of stores and thus enhancing the operational effectiveness of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

The present case being a Buy (Indian) case will enhance national defence equipment manufacturing capabilities. This project has immense potential of direct and indirect employment generation by encouraging MSME sector through component's manufacturing. The procurement marks a pivotal step towards modernising India's defence infrastructure and empowering indigenous industries, which will be a proud flag-bearer of 'Atm Nirbhar Bharat'.

## CHENNAI LEADS THE WAY FOR PB PARTNERS, WITH 62% YOY GROWTH DRIVEN BY A POWERFUL 12,000+ AGENT NETWORK ACROSS TAMIL NADU

Chennai 21, February 2025: PBPartners, the PoSP (Point of Sales Person) arm of Policybazaar, is accelerating its expansion in Tamil Nadu, with Chennai emerging as a key driver of insurance penetration. At a recent PBPartners press meet in the city, Mr. Dhruv Sarin, Co-founder of PBPartners, outlined the company's 2025 expansion strategy, emphasizing Chennai's crucial role in driving insurance accessibility across the region.



Chennai - One of the Top 5 Insurance Markets Mr. Dhruv Sarin highlighted Chennai's growing importance, stating, "Chennai is quickly becoming one of India's most dynamic insurance markets, driven by increasing financial literacy and evolving consumer needs. Our goal is to make insurance more accessible, transparent and tailored to our

customers' needs. Currently, Chennai is among our top five markets, recording an impressive 62% year-on-year growth. Tamil Nadu contributes 24% to our overall business, with a robust network of 12,000+ agents across the state, including 2,500+ in Chennai."

Changing Insurance Preferences in Tamil Nadu Consumers in South India, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Chennai, prioritize comprehensive coverage over cost. Growing financial awareness and evolving risk

interactive sessions, provide on-ground operational support for policy issuance, renewals, and claims processing, and offer a dedicated customer engagement zone where policyholders can seek expert advice, resolve queries, and access personalized insurance solutions.

"We plan to open 10 more Experience Centers in the city in the coming few years," added Mr. Sarin.

The Future Roadmap - Talking about the future roadmap, Mr. Dhruv Sarin added, "Currently we operate in 18,000+ pin codes out of 19,100 across India, with a strong network of nearly 3 lakh agent partners. We aim to grow from 18,000 to nearly 19,000 pin codes. By increasing density in every region, we are committed to making insurance more accessible and inclusive for all."

This facility aims to train and upskill agent partners through structured learning modules and

## CURRENT TRENDS IN DRUG DISCOVERY RESEARCH (CTDDR-2022): THE 9TH MAHAKUMBH FOR DRUG RESEARCH

Chennai 21, February 2025: The 9th "International Symposium on Current Trends in Drug Discovery Research" inaugurated yesterday at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. Dr. Radha Rangrajan, Director CSIR-CDRRI, Lucknow, welcomed all the dignitaries present in this mega event. She briefed about the details of this very important Drug discovery conference and set the tone for the participants that how they can utilize this opportunity for learning, networking and upgrading their research skills.

The Chief Guest of the program, Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR & Secretary DSIR addressed the audience. Dr. Kalaiselvi highlighted the event's

significance as a platform for knowledge exchange. She stressed that such gatherings provide a great opportunity for researchers, industry leaders, and young minds to collaborate, fostering innovation in pharmaceuticals and healthcare. "Science has no borders, and this program is a gateway for global collaboration," she remarked, underlining the importance of international cooperation in research and development. She urged students to take inspiration from these discussions and work towards making India a global leader in science and technology by 2047. The Guest of Honour the program, Prof. Balram Bhargava, Dean and Senior Consultant, Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi & Former



Director General, ICMR also addressed the audience. Dr. Balram Bhargava, emphasizes that India's strength in drug discovery stems from its rich heritage in chemistry, making it a global hub for pharmaceutical advancements. The country has consistently demonstrated its ability to produce high-quality, affordable medicines, ensuring healthcare accessibility worldwide.

However, challenges such as the availability of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and the need for new drug discoveries remain key areas of focus. Further he said that the integration of Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is set to revolutionize drug discovery, accelerating research and reducing costs. Also he said that Collaboration has been a cornerstone of India's pharmaceutical success, as seen in the development of vaccines. Market shaping is equally important, ensuring that innovations reach the masses while maintaining India's leadership in cost-effective healthcare solutions.

## MINISTER EMPHASISES IMPORTANCE OF ELECTRONICS SECTOR

Chennai 21, February 2025: Palanivel Thiagarajan, Minister of Information Technology and Digital Services of Tamil Nadu, emphasized the significance of the electronics sector in India's growth on the second day of Source India's 14th edition. The Minister expressed his delight at representing the Tamil Nadu government at the "Electronics Supply Chain" 2025 event. Dr. Thiagarajan stressed that India must become

self-reliant and keep up with cutting-edge technology to enhance its competitiveness. He also highlighted the crucial role of component manufacturers in achieving national ambitions.

"We need to make India an electronic exporting country. If we become a net exporting country, that in itself will become our political strength," he concluded. The event, organized by ELCINA, has brought together over 150 exhibitors, industry leaders, and 3000-4000 delegates and visitors to advance India's Electronics Supply Chain and drive sustained growth. With consistent support from the Ministry of Industries, Tamil Nadu, since 2009, Source India has evolved into a robust platform connecting businesses across the Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) ecosystem. This year's focus is on

"Enhancing the Electronics Supply Chain: Catalyzing Value Addition for a Resilient Electronics Sector," featuring participation from overseas companies. India's electronics industry has witnessed remarkable growth, with output rising from USD 37 billion in FY 2015-16 to over USD 115 billion in FY 2023-24. Exports have surged to approximately USD 29 billion in FY 2023-24, creating nearly 2 million jobs.