

FIRST TRAINING SQUADRON OF INDIAN NAVY ARRIVED AT CAM RANH BAY, VIETNAM

Chennai, 22 February 2025: Building Bridges of friendship whilst training young minds, the ships of First Training Squadron - INS Tir and ICGS Veera arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 20 Feb 25.



The ships received a warm welcome by the Vietnam People's Navy and members of Indian mission at Vietnam. The visit is poised to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and growing partnership between the two maritime nations.

During the port call, various cross training visits, professional and community interactions including a visit to Vietnam Naval Academy are planned. The visit will conclude with bilateral exercises with Vietnam People's Navy and Coast Guard.

PM of Vietnam to India in Aug 24.

Furthering the ties, the visit by Training Squadron of the Indian Navy to Vietnam reinforces closer maritime cooperation and training exchange between the two Navies.

The extant deployment is aligned with Government of India's broader initiative to enhance capacity building and strengthen regional maritime security in line with the vision of Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

MINISTRY OF MINES CLASSIFIES BARYTES, FELSPAR, MICA AND QUARTZ AS MAJOR MINERALS

Chennai, 22 February 2025: The Ministry of Mines vide gazette notification dated 20th February, 2025 has shifted minerals Barytes, Felspar, Mica and Quartz from the list of minor minerals to the category of major minerals.

have vital role in various new technologies, in energy transition, spacecraft industries, healthcare sector, etc. When the leases of Quartz, Felspar and Mica are granted as minor mineral leases, the lease holders do not declare existence of critical minerals or extract the critical minerals associated with it such as Lithium, Beryl, etc. as their primary objective is to use these minerals as minor minerals for construction, glass / ceramic making, etc. Consequently, the critical minerals associated with these minerals are neither getting extracted nor reported.

This move follows the recent approval of the National Critical Mineral Mission by the Union Cabinet on 29th January, 2025. The Mission envisages exploration and mining of critical minerals within the country including recovery of these minerals from mines of other minerals, overburden and tailings.

In view of the importance of these minerals, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Mines & Minerals Sector constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog, recommended that these minerals be shifted from the list of minor minerals to the category of major minerals. Once categorised as major minerals, there would

be an increase in exploration and scientific mining of these minerals which are an important source of many critical minerals.

Reclassification of minerals Barytes, Felspar, Mica and Quartz will not adversely affect the lease period of the existing leases. As major minerals, the leases for these minerals will get extended to a period of 50 years from the date of grant or till the completion of renewal period, if any, whichever is later as per section 8A of the MMDR Act, 1957. These mines will gradually register with the Indian Bureau of Mines and will be regulated as major minerals. A transition time of four months, that is, up to 30th June, 2025 has been provided. The revenue from mines of these minerals will continue to accrue to the State Government as earlier.

Quartz, Felspar and Mica are found in pegmatite rocks, which are an important source of many critical minerals such as Beryl, Lithium, Niobium, Tantalum, Molybdenum, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, etc. These minerals

DRDO SOUTH ZONE & ALL INDIA INTER ZONE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

Chennai, 22 February 2025: DRDO South Zone Volley ball Tournament for the year 2024-25 was conducted by CVRDE at Bharathiyar Nagar Ground (CVRDE Quarters Avadi, Chennai) during 17-19 Feb 2025. Total 11 teams have participated in the volleyball tournament and the teams NPOL, Kochi & ADE, Bangalore have secured the Winners & Runners up position respectively.

Subsequently, the DRDO All India Inter Zone Volleyball Tournament was also organized by CVRDE at Bharathiyar Nagar Ground (CVRDE Quarters Avadi, Chennai) from 20 - 21 Feb 2025. Total 4 teams (viz. North Zone, South Zone, Central Zone & West Zone) have participated in this tournament and the teams South Zone & Central Zone have secured the Winners &



Runners up position respectively. Shri J. Rajesh Kumar, OS & DIRECTOR CVRDE graced the inaugural function and Dr. V. Balamurugan, OS & Asso. Director, CVRDE attended the valedictory function of both the tournaments. CVRDE Sports council along with 22nd Works committee of CVRDE have made all the arrangements.

IWAI BOARD COMMISSIONS FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR URBAN WATER TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN 17 CITIES

Chennai, 22 February 2025: The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) Board – in its 196th Board Meeting – took a key decision to carry out feasibility study for developing Urban Water Transport System in various cities. The Board decided to explore Water Metro in full or part in 17 cities across 12 states of India. Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) have been appointed to carry out the feasibility study.



This initiative will provide a robust and sustainable urban transport system by utilising existing navigable waterways. The Water Metro model represents a breakthrough in urban water transportation, offering safe, efficient, and environmentally-friendly alternatives to conventional modes of transport.

significant potential for urban water transport system.

The 17 cities chosen by IWAI, in consultation with Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, for developing water metro include - Ayodhya, Dhubri, Goa, Guwahati, Kollam, Kolkata, Prayagraj, Patna, Srinagar, Varanasi, Mumbai, Vasai, Mangalore (Gurupura River), Gandhinagar- Ahmedabad (Sabarmati River), Alleppey in Kerala as well as Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands where inter-island ferry services could transform connectivity.

connect mainland and adjoining municipalities/panchayat areas/islands through waterways and integrate the system with other modes of transport. Besides, it will promote tourism and regional economic growth. It will employ non-polluting and sustainable measures through energy-efficient electric ferries, modernised terminals and ensure seamless multimodal connectivity.

Leveraging India's rich network of rivers, canals, and other water bodies, the project will focus on cities with

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the able guidance of Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, IWAI has been making several infrastructural interventions to

develop waterways as a robust engine of growth. With its concerted efforts, IWAI is expanding its footprint throughout the country – from Arunachal Pradesh in the East to Gujarat in the West and Jammu and Kashmir in the North to Kerala in the South.

In line with Harit Nauka guidelines, the Authority has taken multiple green initiatives which includes procurement of electric catamarans for passenger ferries. Two such catamarans have already been deployed, one each at Varanasi and Ayodhya. Six more shall be deployed soon in Mathura and Guwahati. One hydrogen fuel cell powered vessel has also been procured which recently completed the trials successfully. The move to strengthen urban water transport system by developing water metro projects will be an extension to these proactive initiatives being taken by the Authority.

DPIIT SECRETARY CHAIRS PMG REVIEW OF MEGA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH, SIKKIM, DELHI, AND JHARKHAND

Chennai, 22 February 2025: Shri Amardeep Bhatia, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), chaired a high-level meeting to review key issues affecting mega infrastructure projects in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Delhi, and Jharkhand.

Road Transport and Highways, with a total cost of all projects exceeding Rs 13,501 crore. The Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Expressway project, valued at Rs 9,623.72 crore and comprising seven packages, was also reviewed.



The meeting, attended by senior officials from central ministries, state governments, and project proponents, focused on expediting issue resolution through enhanced inter-ministerial and state coordination facilitated by the Project Monitoring Group (PMG).

The meeting placed significant emphasis on the project of setting up new NITs in strategic locations through which the government seeks to bridge regional disparities in technical education and meet the increasing demand for skilled engineers and technical professionals.

research, and industry collaboration.

The Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Expressway project, a key project under the Bharat Mala Yojana, will enhance regional connectivity across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, and is expected to significantly boost trade and freight movement, particularly benefiting industries reliant on the Kolkata and Haldia ports for maritime trade – was also reviewed.

framework for project monitoring and instructed the relevant authorities to take a proactive approach in addressing pending issues.

He emphasized the importance of private proponents leveraging this specialized mechanism of Project Monitoring Group (PMG) (https://pmg.dpiit.gov.in/) to expedite project implementation and ensure efficient and timely resolution of their concerns through collaboration among the Central Government, State Authorities, and Private Stakeholders.

In the meeting, 21 significant projects were reviewed, including 9 projects under the Ministry of

These institutions will not only enhance the academic landscape but also contribute to regional economic growth by fostering innovation,

SUPER TOP-UP: AN AFFORDABLE PATH TO HIGHER HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Chennai, 22 February 2025: In India, healthcare costs have increased over the past years, often beating regular inflation. This means comprehensive health insurance coverage is necessary and should be a major part of budget planning for families and individuals.

A basic health insurance Product will not be enough if a major health crisis occurs. However, upgrading a basic policy by way of increasing the sum insured may not be the most cost effective option. This is where a Super top-up policy can provide a cost-effective solution that increases health insurance coverage without straining finances.

It is fast becoming essential to thoughtful financial planning. However, we must dig deeper to understand its benefits and how it works.

Flexibility in deductibles - At the basic level, Super top-up products operate on deductibles, the threshold amount policy holders must pay (either out-of-pocket or through an existing insurance policy) before the super top-up coverage kicks in. The limit is usually set when a policy is bought.

This means that if a super top-up product has a deductible of Rs



10 lakh, coverage under the policy will kick-in only when the claim amount exceeds 10 lakhs.

This allows individuals to choose deductibles that match their base policy cover or financial capacity. It integrates into the broader plan, maximizes financial protection, and keeps premiums affordable.

Cost-effective coverage enhancement - A super top-up product is focused on getting a high sum insured at a fraction of the cost of upgrading a base health insurance policy.

As mentioned earlier, by covering costs that exceed the deductible, super top-up product offers a financial buffer against large medical bills and help policyholders get higher coverage.

Cuts across medical issues and expenses - Super top-up product covers medical expenses, pre- and post-hospitalisation, ambulance charges, etc to provide

Individuals and families - A key benefit is that they help families deal with medical exigencies. It helps families with major medical conditions or congenital health issues get solid coverage to fulfill their needs.

Integrates with existing policies - Most super top-up products are compatible with existing health insurance policies. It works for employer-backed group health insurance policies or personal base policies and eliminates coverage gaps without worrying about overlapping expenses.

It makes sure one is protected against high medical costs and works as a reasonable extension of existing policies.

In a nutshell, super top-up policies are a smart, cost-effective way to improve health insurance coverage.

They offer substantial coverage at a fraction of the usual cost and protect individuals and families from the impact of rising healthcare expenses.

With features that include flexible deductibles and wide-ranging benefits tied with seamless integration with existing policies, they meet crucial coverage gaps without breaking the bank.

seamless cover between the base and top-up policies. This comprehensive cover means policy holders have peace of mind and can handle major medical contingencies.

Ideal for managing rising healthcare costs - In India, a concentration of specialists in urban centers and a spike in lifestyle diseases have meant healthcare inflation has been on the uptick, rising at 14% last year, and the cost of major significant and critical medical services keeps increasing.

Super top-up products offer a solid solution to manage these expenses, especially in case of unforeseen, high-value medical bills. It could include a sudden hospitalisation or an expensive surgery and makes sure policyholders have access to adequate financial resources without depleting their savings or taking loans.

Accessibility for

TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR OPENS BOOKINGS FOR THE LAND CRUISER 300- A PINNACLE OF POWER, LUXURY, AND OFF-ROAD DOMINANCE

Madurai, 22 February 2025: Toyota Kirloskar Motor today announced the commencement of bookings of the Land Cruiser 300, an icon of prestige, power, and rugged capability. Built upon a legacy of over 70 years, the Land Cruiser 300 is the ultimate expression of Toyota's engineering excellence, designed to meet the expectations of luxury seekers and off-road enthusiasts.

Renowned for its unmatched reliability, commanding presence, and superior performance, the Land Cruiser 300 is the flagship SUV of Toyota's global lineup. The latest iteration combines a revolutionary new platform, advanced powertrain, cutting-edge safety features, and opulent interiors, ensuring a seamless blend of luxury, strength, and off-road dominance.

A New Era of Performance with Enhanced Power and Off-Road Capabilities:



The Land Cruiser 300 is available in two distinct grades - ZX and GR-S, powered by a twin-turbocharged V6 engine, offering improved efficiency, higher torque output and enhanced fuel economy compared to its predecessor. Paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission (AT), the SUV delivers seamless acceleration and optimized power delivery, making every drive an exhilarating experience. Designed to handle the toughest terrains, built on the TNGA-F platform with a ladder-frame makes the Land Cruiser 300 much lighter, yet stiffer with great agility. Toyota's AWD Integrated Management (AIM) system works in real time to adapt to

changing road conditions, ensuring superior stability and control. For off-road enthusiasts, the Multi-Terrain Select (MTS), and Multi-Terrain Monitor provide precise control and guidance when navigating through sand, mud, snow, or rocky landscapes. Additionally, the GR-S variant is equipped with an off-road-tuned suspension, featuring differential locks and improved shock absorbers to tackle extreme conditions with ease.

Expressing his views, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President - Sales-Service -Used Car Business of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "The Land Cruiser 300

is the ultimate expression of strength, sophistication, and off-road prowess. Built on Toyota's TNGA-F platform, this model offers enhanced driving experience with a powerful twin-turbo V6 engine, cutting-edge safety features, and a luxurious yet rugged design. Whether conquering extreme terrains or navigating city roads, this SUV ensures an unmatched blend of comfort, performance, and adventure, making it the perfect companion for those who demand excellence.

The model's remarkable journey through time has earned it legendary status amongst our esteemed customers. We are confident that the Land Cruiser 300 will exceed our customer expectations, offering a perfect balance of the legacy it holds and the best of innovation, making it a true icon in the premium SUV segment."

SAMSUNG R&D INSTITUTE INDIA, BANGALORE INAUGURATES SAMSUNG INNOVATION CAMPUS AT KARNATAKA'S FIRST WOMEN-ONLY ENGINEERING COLLEGE

Coimbatore, 22 February 2025: Samsung R&D Institute India, Bangalore (SRI-B) inaugurated Samsung's flagship global citizenship programme, the Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC), at Karnataka's first all-women's engineering college, Geetha Shishu Shikshana Sangha (GSSS) Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women, Mysore. This initiative underscores Samsung's unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality in STEM and fostering a new generation of women leaders in technology.

Launched in September 2022, the SIC programme comprises an extensive curriculum focused on core technology skills including Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Big Data, and Coding & Programming, especially designed by Samsung's global R&D experts to make India's youth industry-ready. The students enrolled in this initiative will get an opportunity to undergo expert offline and online training at a classroom facility, and



work on innovative projects under the guidance of mentors from SRI-B and GSSS Institute.

"At Samsung, we believe innovation thrives when opportunities are inclusive. It brings us immense pride to inaugurate Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC) at Karnataka's first women's engineering college, a space where bright young minds will explore, experiment, and push the boundaries of technology. Aligned with the government's #DigitalIndia and #MakeInIndia campaigns, it empowers students to drive technological progress from within the country. We look forward to moulding future women leaders as they create, innovate, and transform the world with technology," said Mohan Rao Goli, Corporate Vice President and

Managing Director, SRI-B.

In 2024, Samsung Southwest Asia expanded its SIC reach by enrolling 3,500 students, up from 3,000 in 2023. Samsung's ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility, through initiatives such as SIC and Samsung Solve for Tomorrow (SFT), highlights its mission to nurture and train India's future-tech leaders. Through these programmes, Samsung continues to support India's youth, equipping them with the skills that not only advance their personal and professional growth but also empower India as a global technology hub.

"Our collaboration with SRI-B ensures maximum impact, providing industry-relevant courses and niche skills, strong technical foundations, and practical exposure through capstone

projects. This initiative reinforces our commitment to powering #DigitalIndia by bridging the digital skills gap and preparing women for the future workforce. Through a structured curriculum, the students will gain hands-on experience in problem-solving and emerging technologies, enhancing both employability and innovation. We deeply appreciate SRI-B for this invaluable partnership, which empowers young women technologists to drive technological advancements," said Anupama B Pandit, Secretary, GSSS (R), Mysore.

SRI-B has established SICs in seven other institutes in Karnataka, including BNM Institute of Technology, Cambridge Institute of Technology (Main & North Campuses), Don Bosco Institute of Technology, KLE Institute of Technology, RNS Institute of Technology (RNSIT) Bengaluru, as well as one in IIIT-Kurnool, training over 800 students with the necessary skills to secure relevant opportunities in the field of technology.

OUR SRMIST MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM WON GOLD MEDAL IN THE ALL INDIA INVITATIONAL VOLLEYBALL MEN TOURNAMENT

Chennai, 22 February 2025: Our SRMIST men's volleyball team won the gold medal in the All India Invitational Men's Volleyball Tournament held at Warora Sports Foundation, Warora, Maharashtra, from 18th to 20th February, 2025.

Match Results: League Match: (Best of Three Sets). SRMIST Beat ABSF, Pune. Score: (30-28/25-21).

SRMIST Beat Indian Postal, Maharashtra. Score: (26-24/25-16).

Quarter Finals: (Best of Five Sets). SRMIST Beat Border Security Force. Score: (25-18/25-21/25-17).

Semi Finals: (Best of Five Sets). SRMIST Beat Orange City, Mumbai. Score: (25-17/25-15/25-18).

Finals: (Best of Five Sets). SRMIST Beat Indian Navy, New Delhi. Score: (21-25/22-25/25-18/25-21/15-7).

Final Standings: Winner: SRMIST.

Runner: Indian Navy.

Third: Indian



Postal, Maharashtra.

Best Players : Best Setter : Mr Om Lad Vasanth, SRMIST.

Best Libero : Mr

Thangabalu, SRMIST

Match of the Tournament : Mr Tharun Gowda, SRMIST.

TRAINING SESSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS ORGANIZED FOR RPF & GRP PERSONNEL

Chennai, 22 February 2025: In line with the directives of the Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, the Association for Voluntary Action (AVA), in collaboration with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP), organized a specialized training session on 20th February 2025 at Southern Railway Headquarters, Chennai.

The session aimed to sensitize officers and staff of RPF and GRP in Tamil Nadu about the critical issue of human trafficking, with a special focus on



the safety of women and children.

The training programme was inaugurated by Shri G. M. Eswara Rao, IRPFS, Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Southern Railway. Addressing the officers and staff gathered at Sulaya Meeting Hall, IG/RPF emphasized

the need for field-level vigilance, urging officers to maintain a close watch on trafficking activities, particularly those targeting vulnerable sections of society.

Expert sessions were conducted by Ms. Sangita Gaur, Assistant Director - Training and Capacity Building, and Shri Abhay Awasthi,

Manager - Training and Capacity Building, who elaborated on human trafficking patterns, intervention strategies, and relevant laws enacted by the Government of India to combat such crimes.

The event was graced by Shri B. Rama Krishna, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner/RPF/Chennai Division, and Shri I. Eswaran, SP/Railways/Chennai. Shri Natharsha Malim, State Coordinator for Tamil Nadu, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save Childhood Movement), extended a warm welcome to the gathering.

INDIA JAPAN PARTNERSHIP ROOTED IN BROTHERHOOD, DEMOCRACY, CULTURE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL

Chennai, 22 February 2025: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal stated that India and Japan share a globally recognized strategic partnership rooted in brotherhood, democracy, culture, and economic cooperation. This was stated by the Minister at his keynote address at the India-Japan Economy and Investment Forum today.

The Minister highlighted that the Seven Lucky Gods of Japan have origins in Indian tradition, underscoring the deep cultural ties between the two nations. He noted that the relationship between India and Japan reflected Sushi and spices, a fusion of distinct yet complementary elements, contributing to an extraordinary partnership. Japan has been a key ally in India's economic growth, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Japan exceeding \$43 billion between 2000 and 2024, making it India's fifth-largest source of foreign investment, added the Minister.

The Minister highlighted that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed in 2011 has significantly strengthened bilateral trade, with over 1,400 Japanese companies

operating in India and 11 industrial townships across eight states hosting Japanese enterprises. He pointed out that major infrastructure projects such as the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail and metro systems in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai reflect Japan's active participation in India's development. He expressed optimism about the commencement of the Shinkansen bullet train service between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in the near future.

The Minister stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the 'Make in India' initiative launched in 2014 has provided a significant boost to India's manufacturing sector. He stated that India and Japan are collaborating to build globally competitive brands, citing the example of Maruti exporting vehicles to various countries, including Japan.

He reiterated the objective of increasing the share of manufacturing in India's GDP to 25%, with Japan playing a crucial role in achieving this target. The Minister cited the Prime Minister, emphasizing that trade, technology, tourism, and investment will

remain key pillars of India's international economic strategy, with the partnership with Japan playing a crucial role in strengthening economic ties.

He also noted India's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment, emphasizing that ease of doing business improvements are being implemented at both central and state levels. Infrastructure development, public-private partnerships in innovation, and a strengthened R&D ecosystem, supported by recent budget announcements, reflect the government's strategic focus on economic growth. He underscored that India has the world's largest number of STEM graduates, with women accounting for 43% of them, contributing to the country's skilled workforce.

The Minister pointed out five key drivers of India's economic growth—decisive leadership, demographic dividend, democracy, diversity, and demand generated by 1.4 billion people—stating that these factors collectively shape India's growing economy. He reiterated that large-scale investments will coexist in India with MSMEs to provide

global solutions.

Quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi "Today's India inspires confidence in the world", Shri Goyal added that with a young and skilled workforce India today is a destination to invest and a destination to source goods and services.

On quality standards, the Minister stated that Japan serves as a benchmark for excellence and that India seeks to adopt similar high standards in manufacturing. He noted that Indian manufacturers are being encouraged to embrace 'Kaizen' (continuous improvement) and Lean Six Sigma principles to enhance quality and efficiency. He further stated that efforts are being made to balance trade between India and Japan, with a focus on increasing Indian exports to ensure reciprocal benefits.

The Minister invited participation in India's growth story, particularly in green energy, renewable energy, high-tech manufacturing of semiconductors, electronic goods, and artificial intelligence. He emphasized that digital technologies will drive progress towards prosperity, reinforcing India's commitment to innovation and sustainable development.

INDIA EXPANDS COLLABORATION WITH UK IN KEY AREAS OF TELECOM, AI, AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Chennai, 22 February 2025: The Secretary (Telecom) of India visited the United Kingdom to engage with the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), UK and explore opportunities for collaboration in next-generation telecommunications, artificial intelligence, and space technology, further strengthening Indo-UK ties in these critical areas.

The Secretary (Telecom) met with Mr. Chris Johnson, National Scientific Adviser, and Mr. Dave Smith, National Technology Adviser of DSIT. The discussions centred on emerging technologies and their applications in 5G, 6G, digital infrastructure security.

The Secretary also met with Mr. Geoff Huggins, Director, Digital Directorate, Govt of Scotland, to discuss collaborative efforts in digital transformation through telecom, telecom security, and emerging telecom technologies.

Secretary (Telecom) held a field visit at one of the six Federated Telecom Hubs (FTH) in the UK, specializing in Cloud and Distributed Computing (CHEDDAR). This hub leads cutting-edge research in 6G distributed cloud, AI for 6G, green 6G, and advanced sensing technologies.

Furthermore, the Secretary met with Ms. Jean Innes, CEO of the Alan Turing Institute, for discussions on potential collaboration in digital twins, AI for telecom security, ethical AI, and



fostering an AI innovation and startup ecosystem.

Additionally, the Secretary visited Scotland's 5G Centre at the University of Strathclyde and the 6G Research Centre at the University of Glasgow's James Watt School of Engineering.

These visits facilitated discussions on collaboration in 6G innovation, future sensing technologies, the exchange of technology such as the 5G stack, and student exchange programs to foster academic and industrial partnerships.

UK-India Telecom Roundtable & MoU Signing - Building on the strong foundation of the UK-India Technology Security Initiative (TSI), where telecom remains a key priority, a roundtable discussion was convened with key UK stakeholders from DSIT, leading business entities such as BT and Ericsson, and innovation hubs and centres, including SONIC Labs, UK Telecom Labs, TITAN, JOINER. Representatives from the UK Space Agency, European Space Agency, Innovate UK, and the UK Technology Innovation Network (UKTIN) also participated, exploring avenues for mutual cooperation.

The roundtable was organized by the High Commission of India (HCI) in partnership with UKTIN. Dr. Neeraj Mittal highlighted India's leadership in the telecom sector and its rapid advancements in next-generation network technologies.

Following the roundtable, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SONIC Labs and the Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT).

The agreement focuses on Open RAN-related policy and technical matters, including 5G Open RAN and Artificial Intelligence in 4G/5G. Other key areas of collaboration which have been identified during the deliberations with various stakeholders on the telecom ecosystem of UK:

Establishment of a Joint Centres of Excellence focusing on telecom cybersecurity, AI in telecom, and digital twins.

Collaborative initiatives with British telcos to leverage mobile phone data for infrastructure planning, building upon India's success in using such data for metro route planning.

Joint contributions

to ITU for the development of 6G standards (IMT 2030).

Mutual recognition of testing labs and the establishment of new testing facilities.

Collaboration on Digital Twins, including standardization frameworks, privacy-enhancing technologies, and cross-sectoral data applications.

Advancing quantum communication solutions and submarine sea cable security.

Promoting the Indigenous 4G/5G telecom stack developed by CDOT.

Collaboration on space technology communication (TN-NTN) between the UK and India's Bharat 6G Alliance.

This visit underscored the shared commitment of India and the UK to drive innovation in telecom and digital infrastructure, paving the way for enhanced collaboration in next-generation connectivity solutions. It also reflects India's proactive approach to shaping global telecom policies, fostering AI-driven innovations, and strengthening international partnerships for a digitally inclusive future.

PASSPORT | MSME | PAN | AADHAAR
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2,4 WHEELER INSURANCE
PROPERTY TAX, EB - NAME TRANSFER
STATE AND CENTRAL GOVT
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11, SOUTH PERUMAL KOIL STREET, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI - 600 026.
8148231942 / 8144337349
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CLARIFICATION ON WRONG NEWSIN SOCIAL MEDIA/ELECTRONIC MEDIA THAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY IS PLANNING TO REDUCE NUMBER OF GENERAL COACHES

Chennai 22, February 2025: The news is baseless and misconceived. Rather than earlier planned to effect the increase of the General running special trains from Tamilnadu and Kerala to Varanasi for the benefit of the train composition will be implemented in the month of March 2025. The following trains

Sl No	Train No & Description	Existing Composition	Revised Composition	With effect from
1	Train No. 22650/22649 Erode – Dr MGR Chennai Central – Erode Yercaud Express	1- First Class cum AC Two Tier Coaches, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 12- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- First Class cum AC Two Tier Coaches, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 11- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Erode from 09.03.2025 Ex. Dr MGR Chennai Central from 12.03.2025
2	Train No. 12603/12604 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Hyderabad – Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express	2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 4- AC Three Tier Coaches, 12- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 4- AC Three Tier Coaches, 11- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Dr MGR Chennai Central from 10.03.2025 Ex. Hyderabad from 11.03.2025
3	Train No. 12689/12690 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Nagercoil – Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express	2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 4- AC Three Tier Coaches, 12- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 4- AC Three Tier Coaches, 11- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Dr MGR Chennai Central from 07.03.2025 Ex. Nagercoil from 09.03.2025
4	Train No. 12695/12696 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Thiruvananthapuram Central Superfast Express	1- First Class cum AC Two Tier Coaches, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 12- Sleeper Class Coaches, 2- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- First Class cum AC Two Tier Coaches, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Dr MGR Chennai Central from 11.03.2025 Ex. Thiruvananthapuram Central from 12.03.2025
5	Train No. 22639/22640 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Alappuzha – Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express	1- First Class cum AC Two Tier Coaches, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 14- Sleeper Class Coaches, 2- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- First Class cum AC Two Tier Coaches, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 12- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Dr MGR Chennai Central from 09.03.2025 Ex. Alappuzha from 10.03.2025
6	Train No. 16021/16022 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Mysuru – Dr MGR Chennai Central Kaveri Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 1- AC Three Tier Coach, 8- Sleeper Class Coaches, 2- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 1- AC Three Tier Coach, 6- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Dr MGR Chennai Central from 09.03.2025 Ex. Mysuru from 10.03.2025
7	Train No. 16349/16350 Kochuveli – Nilambur Road – Kochuveli Rajya Rani Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 1- AC Three Tier Coach, 8- Sleeper Class Coaches, 2- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 1- AC Three Tier Coach, 6- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Kochuveli from 09.03.2025 Ex. Nilambur Road from 10.03.2025

Southern Railway Coaches from the passengers visiting will be added one or planned to increase the month of February- Mahakumbh. And the General Second Class 2025. The additional Coaches will be Coaches with effect coaches required for available in the first of March, 2025 for these augmentations per train.

8	Train No. 16361/16362 Ernakulam – Velankanni – Ernakulam Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 4- AC Three Tier Coaches, 9- Sleeper Class Coaches, 2- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 8- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Ernakulam from 08.03.2025 Ex. Velankanni from 09.03.2025
9	Train No. 16855/16856 Puducherry – Mangaluru Central – Puducherry Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 9- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Puducherry from 06.03.2025 Ex. Mangaluru Central from 07.03.2025
10	Train No. 16857/16858 Puducherry – Mangaluru Central – Puducherry Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 9- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Puducherry from 08.03.2025 Ex. Mangaluru Central from 06.03.2025
11	Train No. 22604/22603 Villupuram – Kharagpur – Villupuram Superfast Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 9- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Villupuram from 04.03.2025 Ex. Kharagpur from 06.03.2025
12	Train No. 16861/16862 Puducherry – Kanniyakumari – Puducherry Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 9- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Puducherry from 09.03.2025 Ex. Kanniyakumari from 10.03.2025
13	Train No. 22651/22652 Dr MGR Chennai Central – Palakkad – Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express	1- AC First Class Coach, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 11- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 9- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Dr MGR Chennai Central from 09.03.2025 Ex. Palakkad from 10.03.2025
14	Train No. 22606/22605 Tirunelveli – Purulia – Tirunelveli Superfast Express	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	1- AC Two Tier Coach, 2- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, 2- Second Class Coaches (Divyangjan Friendly)	Ex. Tirunelveli from 05.03.2025 Ex. Purulia from 07.03.2025

17.01 LAKH NEW WORKERS ENROLLED UNDER ESI SCHEME IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2024

Chennai 22, February 2025: The provisional payroll data of ESIC reveals that 17.01 lakh new employees have been added in the month of December, 2024. Scheme in the month of December, 2024 registrations belong to the age group of upto 25 years. Also, the gender-wise analysis of the payroll data indicates that the net enrolment of female members has been 3.46 lakh in December, 2024. Besides, a total of 73 lakh employees trans gender employees have also got registered under ESI Scheme in the month of December, 2024 which attests the commitment of ESIC to deliver its benefits to every section of the society. The payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise.

BIS MADURAI HOSTS TWO-DAY TRAINING PROGRAM ON YARN & PP BAGS

Chennai 22, February 2025: BIS Madurai, successfully conducted a two-day intensive Capsule Course Training on Indian Standards for Yarn and Polypropylene (PP) bags on February 20 and 21, 2025.

The training session covered several Indian Standards (IS), including:

IS 11652: 2017 – Textiles: High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks for Packaging of 50 kg Sugar

IS 17265: 2023 – Textiles: 100% Polyester Spun Grey and White Yarns – Specification (First Revision)

IS 3566: 2023 – Textiles: Viscose Rayon Cut Staple Spun Yarn – Specification (Second Revision)

IS 17261: 2022 – Textiles: Polyester Continuous Filament Fully Drawn Yarns – Specification (First Revision)

IS 17262: 2022 – Textiles: Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn (POY) – Specification (First Revision)

IS 17263: 2022 – Textiles: Polyester Staple Fibres – Specification (First Revision)

IS 14968: 2015 –



Textiles: High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks for Packaging of 50 kg Cement

The training program, conducted at the BIS Madurai Office, saw participation from 26 quality control personnel representing various textile, spinning and yarn manufacturing companies.

The course was designed to enhance participants' knowledge of Indian standards, product manuals, testing methodologies, and BIS guidelines, which are crucial for license management and compliance for the above group of Indian

standards, product manuals, testing methodologies, and BIS guidelines, which are crucial for license management and compliance for the above group of Indian

GUIDANCE TALK FOR COMPETITIVE EXAM PREPARATION ORGANIZED BY DACE AND SEED CENTERS, CUTN

Chennai 22, February 2025: The Dr Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE) and the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) at the Central University of Tamil Nadu, both initiatives under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, organized a special Guidance Talk for competitive exam preparation on 21 February 2025. The event aimed to provide insights and motivation to students preparing for competitive exams.

The session was delivered by Shri. D. Balanagendran IIS, Assistant Director cum Vigilance Officer at the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. During his insightful guidance talk, Shri. Balanagendran praised CUTN and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for their



preparation difficult. Despite these obstacles, he was inspired by a teacher who motivated him to pursue civil services, recognizing it as a powerful means of assisting those in need.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. R. Thirumurugan, Registrar of CUTN, who delivered the presidential address, highlighting the importance of academic empowerment for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In addition to the guidance talk, the event also celebrated Matribhasha Diwas 2025, emphasizing the significance of mother

P.N. Murali, Director, Southern Regional Lab, Chennai, elaborated on requirements for each of the Indian Standards and detailed testing methodologies for each Indian Standards. Sh. S.D. Dayanand, Senior Director & Head, BIS Madurai, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of the course and encouraging participants to leverage this opportunity to ensure high product quality. The event was formally inaugurated by Sh. Praveen Khanna, Deputy Director General (South), BIS Chennai, who outlined BIS initiatives to maintain standards and periodic updates in the capsule course. He urged participants to utilize this learning experience to uphold quality benchmarks.

On Day 2, participants attended a live demonstration of yarn testing methods at Textile Testing Centre located in Kappalur under the guidance of Shri. P.N. Ragnatha Raja, President, Kappalur Industrialists Association, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. The program concluded with the presentation of completion certificates, recognizing participants' dedication and commitment to quality improvement.

tongue in education and cultural preservation. The celebration highlighted the role of language in fostering communication, learning, and personal development. The event was organised by Prof. A. Selvam, Nodal Officer of DACE and SEED, along with Dr. G. Velumani, Coordinator of DACE, and Dr. P. Boopathi, Coordinator of SEED. This session is part of the ongoing efforts of DACE and SEED to provide mentorship and resources to students from the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), facilitating their access to education and employment opportunities.