

PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO VISIT BIHAR, MADHYA PRADESH AND GUJARAT FROM FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 1

Chennai, 25 February 2025: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat from February 25 to March 1, 2025.

On February 25, the President will grace the centenary celebration of the Patna Medical College in Patna,

Bihar.

On February 26, the President will grace a Mass Wedding ceremony, organised by Shri Bageshwar Jan Seva Samiti, at Gadha, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. On the same day, the President will pay her tributes at the Statue of Unity and witness the Narmada

Aarti at Kevadia, Gujarat.

On February 27, the President will visit the Ekta Skill Development Centre at Kevadia and grace the 44th convocation ceremony of the National Institute of Design at Ahmedabad.

On February 28, the

President will grace the 3rd convocation of the National Forensic Sciences University at Gandhinagar. On the same day, the President will visit the Smritivan Earthquake Memorial at Bhuj.

On March 1, the President will visit Dholavira - UNESCO World

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE RESUMPTION OF INDIA-UK TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Chennai, 25 February 2025: The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom the Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2024 to underline the importance of resuming trade negotiations at an early date.

Today the Republic of India and the United Kingdom have resumed negotiations towards a trade deal between our two

countries. This announcement has been made by Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom the Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds who is in Delhi. This announcement is an outcome of the above stated discussions held at the level of Prime Ministers of the two countries.

India and the United Kingdom have a close partnership, built through collaboration

on security and defence, new and emerging technologies, climate, health, education, research and innovation, green finance and people-to-people contacts.

At the centre of this relationship is the collective aspiration to deliver economic growth and sustainable development.

Both sides have agreed to resume negotiations towards a balanced, mutually beneficial and a forward-looking deal that delivers mutual

growth and builds on the strengths of the two complementary economies.

The strengthening of the trading relationship between our two countries has the potential to unlock opportunities for business and consumers across both our nations and build further on our already deep ties. The two leaders directed the negotiators to work together to resolve the outstanding issues in the agreement to ensure a fair and equitable trade deal for shared success.

PIYUSH GOYAL CALLS FOR BOLSTERING SUPPLY CHAINS AND PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS GLOBALLY AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

Chennai, 25 February 2025: India's electronic goods industry must work together towards more resilient supply chains, upgrade quality standards and provide high quality goods and services to the world at competitive rates. This was stated by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal during his address as a Chief Guest at the 16th Edition of 'ELECRAMA', organised by the Indian Electrical And Electronics Manufacturers Association (IEEMA) today in New Delhi. The Minister urged the participants to work together to bring competitive advantages in manufacturing.

The Minister highlighted that the industry has a responsibility to care for consumers by ensuring that the consumers are provided better deals. He urged the industry leaders and participants

in attendance to shun protectionism and focus on balancing the interests of the industry, particularly the MSME sector. Protectionism beyond a point starts hurting the consumer. Balancing the interests of the MSME sector along with the customers should be the industry's biggest priority, he said.

Minister Goyal noted that the export volume of electronic goods ranks second in the country in 2025, compared to 167th ranked sector in 2015. In January, 2025 export volume of electronic goods was USD 3 billion alone, he said. He said that India should become the one stop shop for electrical goods and urged the industry to aspire to reach the international trade export target of USD 100 billion in the next seven years.

The Minister pointed out that the electronics goods industry has doubled its transmission infrastructure,

renewable energy capacity and installed capacity in the last decade. He further stated that the Government has helped set up 1,800 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in the country. He stated that the Government aims to develop a future ready workforce and promote innovation leveraging the high number of STEM graduates produced in the country.

Speaking on the theme of the special plenary 'Bharat - The Vishwa Mitra', Shri Goyal said that India takes pride in looking at the nation as one family that wishes to work with all countries of the world in a fair, equitable and balanced partnership with each other. India wishes to engage with the

developed world from a position of strength offering them goods and services of high quality at affordable prices.

The Minister asserted that the Government's various initiatives like 'Digital India', 'Make in India', 'Design in India' and 'Serve from India' along with its efforts to make customers buy local products and enable businesses to go global will help the country's growth. "Government's commitments to transform the economy, skill and train the workforce for high quality manufacturing and provision of services, policy certainty and speed and scale of development has led to this milestone," he stated.



INDIA POISED TO HOST THE 12TH REGIONAL 3R AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN JAIPUR

Chennai, 25 February 2025: "India will host the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific. The Forum will take place at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur on 3-5 March 2025. The event will centre on the theme of "Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific," said Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal at the Curtain Raiser event organized today at the National Media Centre, New Delhi as a precursor to the main Forum.

Union Minister also informed that over 500 international and domestic participants are expected to attend the three-day conference packed with plenary sessions, country-specific discussions, theme-based roundtables, as well as knowledge-sharing and networking opportunities. He also informed that the delegates will also have an opportunity to undertake technical field visits to the solid and liquid waste management facilities and visit key heritage sites in Jaipur.

A dedicated 'India Pavilion' will showcase India's remarkable initiatives and achievements in the 3R and circular economy domain. This Pavilion will feature exhibitions from key line ministries and national missions, reflecting India's whole-of-



government approach to sustainable development. It will also serve as a hub for interactive knowledge-sharing, with sessions such as the 'Ministers & Ambassadors Roundtable Dialogue,' 'Mayors' Dialogue,' 'Policy Dialogue' and the signing of agreements under the CITIIS 2.0 program. Multiple launches of knowledge products will take place at the Forum including a compendium of over 100 best practices put together by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

The Forum will host an international '3R trade and technology exhibition', providing a platform for over 40 Indian and Japanese businesses and start-ups to showcase best practices, ideas and solutions that support circularity and 3R principles while encouraging cross-learning. Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal informed that 'Waste-to-wealth' initiatives by NGOs and Self-help Groups across India will also be showcased at the Forum promoting sustainability-driven entrepreneurship and community engagement.

Shri Manohar Lal informed that the 12th Forum will conclude with the adoption of the 'Jaipur Declaration' for enabling transition to a resource-efficient, circular economy in Asia-Pacific countries and will be handed over to the next host country. The Jaipur Declaration (2025-34) builds upon the Hanoi Declaration (2013-23) and aims to provide participating countries with a framework for developing 3R and circular economy policies and programs, which enable a shift from a linear 'take-make-dispose' economy to a circular economy. It is a voluntary and legally non-binding agreement.

Launched by UNCRD in 2009, the Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum aims to provide strategic policy inputs to government authorities in the Asia-Pacific region for mainstreaming 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) and circularity and serve as a platform for disseminating and sharing best practices in 3R. The last Forum was hosted in 2023 by Cambodia. India has previously hosted the Forum in 2018, when

the 8th edition was held in Indore.

The 12th Regional Forum is being spearheaded by the Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with Japan's Ministry of the Environment, UN ESCAP, UNCRD, UN DSDG, and UN DESA, with support from the Government of Rajasthan. This Forum, focused on the Asia-Pacific region, aims to guide member-countries in shaping policies and actions on 3R and the circular economy in the coming years. With participation expected from 38 invited member countries, 15-line ministries of the Government of India, almost all States/UTs, over 60 cities, more than 40 start-ups and businesses, and around 120 speakers across 3 days, this Forum will serve as a platform for policy discussions, collaboration and knowledge exchange. By fostering these partnerships, it will accelerate progress towards a circular economy and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum will be open for virtual participation on all three days. Participants may attend the sessions online by registering on <https://3rcefindia.sbmurban.org/>.

SECI SIGNS MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF MP FOR 200 MW SOLAR PROJECT AT DHAR

Chennai, 25 February 2025: Solar Investors Summit 2025, organised by the Government of Madhya Pradesh was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in the presence of Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mohan Yadav.

The MoU was signed by Shri Sivakumar V Vepakomma, Director (Power Systems) SECI and Shri. Manu Srivastava, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (NRE) in the



presence of Hon'ble Minister of New & Renewable Energy of Madhya Pradesh Shri Rakesh Shukla and Shri. R P Gupta, IAS (Retd) Chairman and Managing Director, SECI.

The 200 MW Solar Project is part of a 500 MW Agreement which was executed in 2023 with MP Power

Management Company Limited (MPPMCL) for a period of 25 years under which SECI will supply the electricity to the state. SECI has proposed a phase-wise capital expenditure of Rs 2500 Cr for expansion and development of Renewable Energy in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

JSW GROUP CHAIRMAN SAJJAN JINDAL RECEIVES 'BUSINESS LEADER OF THE DECADE' AWARD AT AIMA MANAGING INDIA AWARDS

Chennai, 25 February 2025: JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal has been conferred with the coveted 'Business Leader of the Decade' honour at the 15th AIMA Managing India Awards, in recognition of his transformative leadership in expanding JSW Group into a global conglomerate.

The award was presented to Mr. Jindal at a ceremony here today in the presence of Chief Guest Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, and Guest of Honour Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce



and Industry; Electronics and IT. The citation was read by Mr. Yezerdi Nagporewalla, Chief Executive Officer, KPMG India.

Under Mr Jindal's stewardship, JSW Group has achieved remarkable growth, more than doubling its revenues to US\$24 billion. His strategic vision has led to JSW

leadership, JSW has emerged as the second-largest private player in India's ports sector, whilst also venturing into future-focused sectors including electric vehicles and military drones through international partnerships.

The All India Management Association (AIMA) Managing India Awards celebrate outstanding contributions to India's business landscape. The ceremony brought together distinguished award winners, industry leaders and AIMA office bearers for this landmark 15th edition of the awards.

nearly tripling its annual steel production capacity to 39 million tonnes, whilst establishing the group as a major force in renewable energy and cement manufacturing. The award recognises Mr Jindal's pivotal role in aligning JSW Group with India's infrastructure modernisation initiatives. Under his

EATON UNVEILS ADVANCED SMART POWER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS AT ELECRAMA 2025

Chennai, 25 February 2025: Intelligent power management company Eaton is showcasing its latest innovations at Elecrama 2025, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable, efficient, and customer-centric power solutions. With a strong focus on Make in India, Eaton unveils cutting-edge products designed to enhance reliability and performance across critical applications, including data centers, renewable energy, and industrial power distribution.

At the event, Eaton introduces the 9395 XR Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) system, an advanced power backup solution designed to maximize energy efficiency, enhance system reliability, and ensure seamless operation for mission-critical infrastructure such as data centers and industrial facilities. Expanding its offerings in renewable energy, Eaton also launches a range of low-voltage (LV) to medium-voltage (MV) switchgear solutions tailored for the solar and wind energy segments. The lineup includes Air Circuit



Breakers (ACBs) and Molded Case Circuit Breakers (MCCBs), specifically engineered for rooftop solar, commercial, and industrial installations.

Emphasizing the company's commitment to local manufacturing and innovation, Syed Sajjadh Ali, Managing Director, Electrical Sector, India, Eaton, said, "Our presence at Elecrama 2025 reaffirms Eaton's dedication to the 'Make in India' initiative. We are proud to manufacture high-performance, sustainable, and reliable power solutions right here in India. With our latest product launches, we continue to set new industry benchmarks, driving innovation, efficiency, and sustainability."

Ali further highlights Eaton's expanding footprint in India, "Through our recently expanded Pondicherry plant, we are strengthening our commitment to cutting-edge technology and meeting the growing demand for smart, locally manufactured solutions. Eaton remains focused on

enabling customer growth while advancing a sustainable future." are guided by our commitment to do business right, to operate sustainably and to help our customers manage power—today and well into the future.

By capitalizing on the global growth trends of electrification and digitalization, we're accelerating the planet's transition to renewable energy sources, helping to solve the world's most urgent power management challenges, and building a more sustainable society for people today and generations to come.

Founded in 1911, Eaton has continuously evolved to meet the changing and expanding needs of our stakeholders. With revenues of nearly \$25 billion in 2024, the company

ICD BESTOWS HONORARY FELLOWSHIP ON SRM CHANCELLOR

Chennai, 25 February 2025: The International College of Dentistry (ICD) Section VI (India, Sri Lanka & Nepal) has conferred the prestigious Honorary Fellowship upon Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar, Founder Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST). This distinguished fellowship was presented to Dr. Paarivendhar, a distinction rarely bestowed upon non-dentists/non-medical. This honour recognises his contribution to the fields of education and

healthcare delivery. Dr. Paarivendhar was recognised for his exceptional contributions to both fields during ICD's annual meeting and convocation, held at SRMIST in Kattankulathur, in collaboration with SRM Kattankulathur Dental College and Hospital.

The Honorary Fellowship was presented by ICD's Global President, Dr. Ian M. Doyle, and ICD Section VI President, Dr. Meera Verma, among other distinguished guests.

In his acceptance



speech, Dr. Paarivendhar highlighted the unique importance of dentistry, stating that it plays a vital role in helping individuals walk upright, speak clearly, and laugh with confidence. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to ICD for honoring him, a non-medical professional, with such a prestigious

recognition. He also emphasised the humanitarian work being carried out at SRM Kattankulathur Dental College, where dental care is provided free of charge to the underprivileged. "We don't just treat the poor; we make them smile. Service to the less fortunate is truly service to God," he said.

AMIT SHAH TO ATTEND MAHASHIVRATRI CELEBRATIONS AT ISHA YOGA CENTRE

Chennai, 25 February 2025: Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to Attend Mahashivratri Celebrations at Isha Yoga Centre



Swami Paaraga, regional coordinator of the Isha Foundation, announced on Saturday that Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will be attending the Mahashivratri celebrations at the Isha Yoga Centre on February 26.

Amit Shah is

scheduled to arrive in the city by flight on the night of February 25 and will stay at a hotel. The following morning (February 26), he will inaugurate the new BJP party office at Peelamedu before participating in the Mahashivratri celebrations at the Isha Yoga Centre later that night.

Swami Paaraga stated that the 31st

Mahashivratri celebration at Isha is expected to be a grand event, with both Shah and Shivakumar gracing the occasion as esteemed guests.

The festivities will be held in front of the iconic Adiyogi statue, running from 6 PM on February 26 until 6 AM the following morning. Under the guidance of Sadhguru, the night

will feature powerful meditations, mantra chanting, and mesmerizing performances by renowned artists.

"To keep the energy vibrant throughout the night, live music performances will include Tamil singer Satya Prakash, Karnataka-based vocalist Subha Raghavendra, hip-hop artist Danish Singh (Paradox), renowned Marathi music duo Ajay-Atul, Gujarati folk singer Muktidan Gadhvi, and German artist Cassandra Mae, known for her renditions of Indian devotional songs," said Swami Paaraga.

ANDREA JEREMIAH SINGS AND DANCES FOR 'TAMUGU' SONG COMPOSED BY D. IMMAN FOR 'ELEVEN' MOVIE. SPECIAL SONG WITH TAMIL AND TELUGU LYRICS GOES VIRAL BY CATCHING MASSIVE ATTENTION ONLINE

Chennai, 25 February 2025: Under the banner of A.R. Entertainment and directed by Lokkesh Ajls, 'Eleven' is an exciting investigative thriller featuring Naveen Chandra in the lead role. The film has been made in both Tamil and Telugu.

The team has released a special song titled 'Tamugu', which has gone viral on the web. This exclusive number, composed by D. Imman, with lyrics by Rakendu Mouli, is sung by the popular actress Andrea Jeremiah, who has also danced alongside Imman.

The song, blending both Tamil and Telugu lyrics, is being shared widely on social media platforms. Speaking about 'Tamugu', director Lokkesh Ajls said, "The song was created to match the fast-paced crime thriller nature of 'Eleven'. Since the movie has been made



in both Tamil and Telugu, we decided to create the song with both language lyrics, and that's why we named it 'Tamugu.' He also mentioned that 'Eleven' is scheduled for release in theatres during the upcoming summer holidays.

After the success of their highly praised films 'Sila Nerangalil Sila Manidhargal' and 'Sembi', Ajmal Khan and Reyaa Hari have produced 'Eleven' on A R Entertainment banner.

Director Lokkesh Ajls has previously worked as an associate director of Sundar C on films like 'Kalakalappu 2', 'Vantha Rajavathan

handled by Karthik Ashokan, a professional with experience in Bollywood. The film's editing is by National Award-winning editor Srikanth N.B.

Director Lokkesh Ajls shared his thoughts about 'Eleven', stating, "From start to finish, 'Eleven' will be an edge-of-the-seat thriller that keeps the audience hooked. The talented actors and technical artistes who have collaborated on this film make it a truly exciting project. I'm grateful to them and the producers. I am confident the film will captivate all audiences."

Produced by Ajmal Khan and Reyaa Hari under A R Entertainment banner, and directed by Lokkesh Ajls, 'Eleven' is set to release in both Tamil and Telugu languages, with the release date to be announced soon.

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER INAUGURATES 'FICCI MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS CONCLAVE (MEBC)-SOUTH CONNECT 2025' IN CHENNAI, INDIA ACTOR KAMAL HAASAN ANNOUNCED AS CHAIRMAN OF FICCI MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT, SOUTH

Chennai, 25 February 2025: Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr Udhayanidhi Stalin, along with legendary actor-filmmaker Mr Kamal Haasan, today inaugurated the two-day media and entertainment conclave 'FICCI MEBC South'. Mr Haasan was also announced as the Chairman of FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee, South.



Mr Udhayanidhi Stalin, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu emphasized the importance of regional industries in driving global recognition. He expressed his commitment to realize the dream of Dr. Kalaingar (Dr. Karunanidhi) to make Tamil Nadu an entertainment epicenter. "A key initiative is the establishment of a state-of-the-art film city spread across 152 acres in Chennai. This world-class facility will include advanced post-production studios, virtual production technologies, animation and VFX studios, LED walls, and even a 5-star hotel for industry professionals," he added.

He also made an important announcement towards fulfilling the dream of Dr. Karunanidhi, saying, "In 2010, during Dr. Kalaingar (Dr. Karunanidhi) a 90-acre land near Kelambakkam was allocated for a 99-year lease to film industry organizations for building residential complexes. The construction was to be completed within three years, but the beneficiaries couldn't finish it, rendering the order invalid. In

response to a request from the associations, our Chief Minister decided to revise the order, allowing the land to be used for the intended construction. The revised order was issued recently," Mr Stalin highlighted.

Mr Kamal Haasan while sharing his insights into the evolving media landscape said, "Indian cinema can become true ambassador for Indian culture. We need a long-term vision for Indian cinema, for which the government, both the state and the centre, will have to come up with regulations to not contain emerging technologies, but include emerging technologies without it impeding the existing market. Also, a request since the Deputy CM is here that we need to relook and reform the state entertainment tax on cinema."

Mr Kevin Vaz, Chairman, FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee and CEO - Entertainment, JioStar said, "The South's media landscape has evolved from regional to national and now global, exemplified by icons like Mr. Kamal Haasan, whose films have broken boundaries for decades.

The post-pandemic revival of the box office, driven by films

like RRR and KGF-2, and Tamil cinema's storytelling, continue to shape India's entertainment sector. As digital media grows rapidly, I believe India is an "AND" market, where both TV and digital coexist, unlocking immense potential. With upcoming forums like WAVES and continued innovation, India's media industry is poised to take the global stage."

The event aims to serve as a pivotal platform for exploring the future of films, television, OTT, gaming, animation, and digital entertainment, setting the stage for innovation, collaboration, and strategic growth within India's creative economy

The two-day conclave will feature a dynamic blend of knowledge sessions, masterclasses, workshops, content markets, and exhibitions, exploring critical aspects of India's evolving media and entertainment landscape. Key focus areas will include the global influence of Indian cinema, the transformation of television and OTT, innovations redefining broadcasting and music consumption, and India's rise as a powerhouse in gaming, animation, and VFX.

Additionally, discussions on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in M&E will address regulatory frameworks and policies, fostering a seamless, growth-driven industry ecosystem.

A special segment, Play Next - Developer's Day, will delve into gaming, esports, and interactive entertainment, highlighting India's emergence as a global leader in the AVGC-XR ecosystem.

Sandhya Devanathan, Co-Chair, FICCI M & E Committee & VP, Country Head - India, Meta; Arjun Nohwar, Co-Chair, FICCI Media & Entertainment Committee and SVP & Country GM - India & South Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery; and Dr. G.S.K. Velu, Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council were the other dignitaries at the inaugural event. Other distinguished industry leaders included Ashish Pherwani, Ravi Kottarakara, Kaarthikeyan Santhanam, Sanjay A. Wadhwa, Ankur Vaish, Shweta Bajpai, Mahesh Shetty, Krishnan Kutty, Ravikant Sabnavis, Munjal Shroff, Vaibhav Chavan, Jakes Bejoy, Bejoy Arputharaj, Ashish Kulkarni, among others.

THE ADVOCATES AMENDMENT BILL 2025 IS A DIRECT ASSAULT ON THE AUTONOMY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

Chennai, 25 February 2025: Since 2014, the BJP government has been systematically undermining the independence of the Judiciary—first by trying to hijack judicial appointments through the NJAC, then by ignoring the collegium's

recommendations for judicial appointments and transfers. Now, by seeking control over Bar Councils, it aims to weaken judicial independence by eroding the autonomy of the legal profession. The BJP's aversion to "Tamil" is evident in this Bill, as it wants to rename the Bar

Council of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry as the Bar Council of Madras. Tamil Nadu is not just a name; it is our identity!

Though spontaneous protests and strong opposition to the Draft Bill forced the Union government to

withdraw it, the rider that it will be reconsidered and processed afresh is condemnable. The DMK demands the total withdrawal of this Bill and appeals to the Union Government to respect the autonomy of the legal profession!

SHINGLES AWARENESS WEEK 2025 - MOST PEOPLE OVER 50 IN INDIA UNAWARE OF SHINGLES DISEASE, DESPITE BEING AT RISK

Chennai, 25 February 2025: A new global survey shows that 56.6% of Indian participants aged 50 and above know little to nothing about shingles, although more than 90% of adults above 50 years have this virus in their body and are vulnerable. I, [iii], [iv] Globally, only 44% of respondents had some familiarity with shingles. I Launched at the start of Shingles Awareness Week (24 February - 2 March 2025), the survey findings highlight limited awareness of age-related health risks, particularly among individuals with pre-existing health conditions. In India, 61% of survey participants reported living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, COPD, asthma, cardiovascular

disease or chronic kidney disease. However, only 49.8% express significant concern about developing shingles. On a global level, 54% of participants had chronic conditions, but only 13% expressed significant concern about shingles.

Dr Shalini Menon, Medical Director at GSK India, said: "As we age, our natural ability to fight disease diminishes, making us more susceptible to various diseases like shingles.[v] When ageing is combined with chronic conditions, this risk increases.[vi] Yet, the survey reveals that a significant portion of people over 50 remain unaware of these risks, which is concerning. I It is essential for ageing people to understand the impact of ageing on their health, recognise

these risks and adopt preventive measures. This includes maintaining a healthy diet, engaging in regular exercise, recognising symptoms early, undergoing timely health screenings, and discussing vaccination options with their health care providers.[vii], [viii], [ix], [x] By fostering early awareness and taking proactive steps, we can significantly improve long-term health outcomes for our ageing population." The survey also revealed a notable contrast in health awareness and behaviour among Indians aged 50 and above. I While more than half (55.7%) of respondents in this age group feel younger than their actual age, with 24% feeling a decade younger, only

25% are very aware of age-related diseases and take proactive steps to limit the impact. This gap between perceived health and actual health highlights a concerning trend, as the lack of proactive care may increase vulnerability to age-related conditions, including infectious diseases such as shingles.

It underscores the urgent need for greater awareness and action to promote healthy ageing practices.[xi] The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) has also emphasised the importance of those aged 50 and above actively monitoring their health and well-being, especially as their immune systems naturally weaken with age.

SAMSUNG LAUNCHES UNIQUE COMMUNITY-LED PROGRAMME "GALAXY EMPOWERED" TO UPSKILL 20,000 TEACHERS BY 2025

Chennai, 25 February 2025: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has announced the launch of "Galaxy Empowered", a one-of-a-kind community-led programme designed to transform education in India by empowering teachers, principals, and administrators in the education sector.

The initiative, launched in the presence of Abhinav Bindra, legendary shooter and 2008 Olympic Gold Medallist, aims to build a culture of innovation and inspire creativity in education by integrating technology into teaching practices. It will prepare teachers for the classrooms of tomorrow through recurring on-ground and online learning events. As a global leader in technology, Samsung is committed to shaping the future of education by creating future-ready classrooms that will help teachers embrace the latest technology and modern pedagogies.

"Galaxy Empowered" not only benefits educators but also supports schools in becoming leaders in education

innovation. By enhancing teaching practices and creating technology-driven learning environments, schools can position themselves as the institution of choice for parents, improving their reputation and gaining recognition in the community. In addition, the "Galaxy Empowered" programme is free for both teachers and schools, ensuring valuable resources for education advancement without any financial barriers.

"With "Galaxy Empowered", we provide teachers the tools to enhance student engagement and create lasting educational impact. By investing in teacher development, Samsung empowers educators to maximize their classroom impact, supporting the backbone of the education system. This initiative aligns with our vision of innovating for a better tomorrow, ensuring education remains at the forefront of innovation and every educator has the resources to succeed," said Raju Pullan, Senior Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India. Over 2,700 teachers have been awarded certificates across



India via live training sessions since December 2024 under the umbrella of "Galaxy Empowered". The programme aims to empower 20,000 teachers across India by 2025. For the Delhi phase, Samsung has successfully conducted the "Galaxy Empowered" programme in 250 schools. Apart from partnering with Mahattattva Educational Advisory and STAR for the first phase, specialized trainers and academicians have been appointed to help the teachers through the programme.

"Education lies at the heart of societal progress, and Samsung has recognized the importance of enabling teachers with the right tools and support to harness technology in the classroom. By empowering teachers and education administrators, Samsung is fostering an ecosystem where technology enhances

learning, bridges gaps, and shapes the future of education. I believe this initiative will serve as a vital steppingstone in upskilling our educators to deliver better learning experiences on a larger scale," said Abhinav Bindra, Chief Guest and 2008 Olympic Gold Medallist.

"Samsung's Galaxy Empowered initiative bridges the gaps by providing educators with access to advanced technology, blended learning tools, and a supportive community. Through online and in-person professional development, teachers can effectively integrate technology into their classrooms. By offering hands-on experience with Samsung's products and tailored resources, we are aiding educators enhance student engagement, streamline tasks, and improve teaching effectiveness." said Aditya Babbar, Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, CUTN, RELEASES BOOK ON DESIGN THINKING

Chennai 25, February 2025: The Department of Computer Science at Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), Thiruvavur, released a book titled "Design Thinking: A Hands-On Approach". The book was co-authored by Dr. P. Thiyagarajan, Assistant Professor at CUTN, Dr. S. Chandramouli, Associate Director at Cognizant Technology Solutions, Chennai, and Dr. Sankar Venkataramani, Partner at KPMG.



The book was officially released by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of CUTN, Prof. M. Krishnan, with the first copy presented to Prof. R. Thirumurugan, Registrar of CUTN, Prof. P. V. S. S. R.

Chandramouli, Dr. P. Thiyagarajan, Dr. S. Chandramouli, Associate Director at Cognizant Technology Solutions, Chennai, and Dr. Sankar Venkataramani.

Prof. M. Krishnan, Vice-Chancellor congratulated the authors for creating a book that offers practical insights and actionable methodologies, Vice-Chancellor delivered the presidential address

emphasizing the relevance of design thinking in today's fast-paced world. He highlighted that design thinking, with its focus on creativity, adaptability, and empathy, is an essential tool to solve complex problems across various fields. "In a world of rapidly evolving challenges, design thinking is more relevant than ever," said Prof. Krishnan. "This approach, which

emphasizes human-centered solutions, fosters collaboration, experimentation. It enables us to address challenges in business, education, healthcare, and social innovation with fresh perspectives."

This book aims to equip individuals across various fields with the mindset and methodologies necessary to tackle complex problems through innovation, reinforcing the idea that design thinking is not just a tool but a transformative way of thinking. Published by Orient Blackswan Pvt Ltd, "Design Thinking: A Hands-On Approach" is now available for purchase on major online platforms including Amazon and Flipkart.

PASSENGERS ARE REQUESTED TO CHECK THE STATUS OF THEIR ACCOMMODATION BEFORE COMMENCING THEIR JOURNEY

Chennai 25, February 2025: Various classes of Accommodation in Reserved Trains are defined in the Passenger System (PRS). With the reduction in the Advance Reservation Period (ARP) from 120 days to 60 days, effective from 01.11.2024, and whenever modifications in train compositions are notified by the Railways. PRS will redefine accommodation for the changes in train

composition. This reallocation process is fully automated with no human/manual interventions and Confirmed passengers will receive an SMS regarding any changes in their berth/seat numbers after the final charting—at least 4 hours before the train's departure from the respective charting locations.

Passengers are requested to get themselves updated about accommodation changes in their train

travel, especially when Railways implement modifications such as changes in train composition, Conversion of conventional rakes into LHB rakes, Diversion/Partial cancellation of train services and Automatic upgradation of accommodation, provision of alternate trains (VIKALP option), among others. To check berth/seat details after the preparation of final chart, passengers can use the PNR status

enquiry feature on www.irctc.co.in or www.indianrail.gov.in or through Helpline 139. To ensure a hassle-free boarding experience at originating and enroute stations, passengers are advised to check the SMS notifications from Indian Railways which confirm their journey in advance. They can also verify their current accommodation status using the PNR enquiry feature on IRCTC or other official Railway websites.

enquiry feature on www.irctc.co.in or www.indianrail.gov.in or through Helpline 139.

To ensure a hassle-free boarding experience at originating and enroute stations, passengers are advised to check the SMS notifications from Indian Railways which confirm their journey in advance. They can also verify their current accommodation status using the PNR enquiry feature on IRCTC or other official Railway websites.

1,500 TEMPLES PARTICIPATE IN LARGEST TEMPLE CONVENTION ITCX

Chennai 25, February 2025: The International Temples Convention & Expo (ITCX) 2025, held in the spiritual heart of Tirupati, served as India's largest and most influential gathering on temple management, concluded with an unprecedented congregation of 1,500+ temples, esteemed political leaders, and revered religious heads from across Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Value-adding to the narrative of honourable Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047, the event served as a transformative platform for shaping the future of temple governance, sustainability, and technological integration while reinforcing the timeless values of Sanatana Dharma.

With thought-provoking discussions on temple autonomy, smart temples mission, and global best practices, ITCX 2025 has set a new benchmark in

reimagining temples as centres of religious, cultural, and societal progress.

Envisioned by Gireesh Kulkarni, founder of ITCX and Temple Connect, and Prasad Lad, ITCX Chairman who is also the Chief Whip of Maharashtra Legislative Council, the platform has created a ripple effect, opening new avenues for temple leaders to reinvent temples as power centres of Hindu society. With India's temple economy

valued at Rs.4-5 lakh crore, comparable to any major global industry, the discussions emphasized the need to operate temples as professional institutions where the common person's donations directly benefit communities through medical aid, education, healthcare, and large-scale food distribution through langars. In only its second edition, ITCX has solidified its role as the driving force in reshaping temple management.

WATER EXPO TO SHOWCASE CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FROM FEB 26

Chennai 25, February 2025: The 18th edition of Water Today's Water Expo, South Asia's leading B2B show for industrial and commercial water and wastewater management, is set to take place from 26-28 February 2025 at Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam. The show is expected to bring together top industry professionals, cutting-edge technologies, and innovative solutions. The much-anticipated event will be a crucial platform for businesses looking to enhance their water

management strategies and sustainability efforts.

The expo will showcase around 200 exhibitors from India and around the world, displaying a wide range of products and solutions related to water treatment, wastewater recycling, desalination, filtration, purification, pumping systems, and smart water management technologies.

The event is expected to attract thousands of business visitors, including industrial manufacturers, municipal authorities,



environmental consultants, and technology providers.

A major highlight of the expo will be live demonstrations of advanced Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP), Sewage Treatment Plants (STP), Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems, and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) technologies. These demonstrations will allow visitors to witness firsthand the latest innovations in water management.

water purification and wastewater treatment, helping industries reduce pollution and optimize resource utilization.

The Water Expo will also feature a comprehensive seminar series, bringing together renowned industry experts, policymakers, and technical specialists to discuss key trends, challenges, and solutions in water and waste management.

22ND EGM: IREDA SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE UP TO ₹5,000 CRORE FUNDRAISING VIA QIP

Chennai 25, February 2025: Shareholders of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) have approved the company's proposal to raise up to ₹5,000 crore through Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) of equity shares, in one or multiple tranches. The approval was granted by the shareholders in favour of the resolution via remote e-voting during the 22nd Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) held today through video conferencing. The meeting was chaired by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director, IREDA and attended by Directors on the Board and shareholders.

IREDA's Board had earlier approved the fundraising plan on January 23, 2025, which includes the dilution of the



Government of India's shareholding in the company by up to 7% post-issue equity, in one or multiple tranches.

Addressing the shareholders, Shri Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, highlighted IREDA's strong financial performance in the first nine months of FY 2024-25, with a loan book of ₹68,960 crore, loan sanctions of ₹31,087 crore, and disbursements of ₹17,236 crore. "The funds raised through QIP will strengthen our green financing capabilities, accelerate

loan book growth, and support India's clean energy targets," he stated.

Shri Das further informed shareholders that IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of IREDA, recently received the Certificate of Registration from the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA), allowing it to commence business as a Finance Company at GIFT City, Gujarat. "This milestone strengthens IREDA's commitment to lending

and serving in foreign currency by reducing hedging risks," he added. In addition to the fundraising approval, shareholders also consented to amendments in IREDA's Articles of Association. These amendments include provisions for formation of joint ventures and subsidiaries in India and abroad, along with empowering the Board to exercise enhanced powers under 'Navratna' status, subject to government guidelines.



A.M. Jain College hosted 'The Spark 2025,' an exciting inter-collegiate event inaugurated by Mrs. Padma Priya, Founder & Managing Trustee of Vidhai Vidhaipom. Bigg Boss fame Mr. Balaji Murugadoss added excitement to the event, which saw participation from students from more than 35 colleges. The 'Taruma' movie team honoured the winners in a valedictory function, making The Spark 2025 a truly memorable celebration of talent and enthusiasm.