

IAS OFFICERS OF THE 2023 BATCH CALL ON THE PRESIDENT

Chennai, 16 April 2025: A group of IAS officers from the 2023 batch, currently serving as Assistant Secretaries in various Union Ministries and Departments, called on the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on April 15, 2025.

Addressing the IAS officers, the President said that they had become IAS officers through extraordinary determination and hard work. This has brought about a transformative change in their personal lives. Now with even more determination and dedication, they have the opportunity to bring about transformative changes in the lives of countless people. Their area of service and authority are so vast that they can make the lives of many fellow citizens better in their



first posting itself. She advised them to make special efforts for the upliftment of the underprivileged. She also advised them to visit the places of posting during their career journey after some time and see the far-reaching results of their work.

The President said that officers should keep in mind the rights and duties of civil servants. The duties of a public servant are their responsibilities and their rights are the means to fulfill those duties.

The President told officers that their real career story would be

created by their work, not by increasing the number of followers on social media. Their real social net worth would be determined by their good work.

The President said that every public servant should work with honesty of purpose. We all face the challenges of environmental pollution and climate change. Pollution of immorality and erosion in values are also very serious challenges. There should be no need to say anything else about being devoted and honest. The people who move ahead following life

values of honesty, truth, and simplicity are happier. Honesty is the most desirable policy in public service. It is expected from the public servant that they would present examples of integrity and sensitivity in every sphere of life.

The President said that in the digital era, people's aspirations are rising. They are becoming aware of the accountability of administrators. She advised officers to develop closeness with their fellow citizens and increase their participation in local efforts.

She also advised them to resolve public interest issues raised by people's representatives. She said that the development and public welfare work done by them at the local and state level would help in achieving national goals.

UNION MINISTER SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN TO ATTEND 15TH BRICS AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING AT BRASILIA, BRAZIL

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, is leading the Indian delegation to the 15th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM), scheduled to be held on 17th April, 2025 in Brasilia, Brazil.

The theme of 15th BRICS AMM is "Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture through Cooperation, Innovation, and Equitable Trade among BRICS Countries". Agriculture Ministers and senior officials

from BRICS member countries, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran are expected to attend the Meeting.

During the visit, Shri Chouhan will hold bilateral meetings with key Brazilian counterparts, including Mr. Carlos Henrique Baqueta Fávaro, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, and Mr. Luiz Paulo Teixeira, Minister of Agrarian Development and Family Farming (MDA). These meetings will focus on enhancing

collaboration between India and Brazil in various areas of agriculture, agri-technology, rural development, and food security.

The Minister will interact with leaders of major Brazilian agribusiness companies and representatives of the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries in São Paulo, exploring avenues for partnership and investment in the agriculture value chain. As part of his visit, the Minister will also participate in a tree plantation drive at the Embassy of India in

Brasilia, under the noble initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", aimed at raising environmental consciousness and honouring motherhood. In addition, the Minister will interact with the vibrant Indian diaspora in São Paulo, acknowledging their role as cultural ambassadors and contributors to bilateral ties.

This visit reaffirms India's commitment to deepen cooperation with BRICS nations and to advance South-South cooperation in agricultural innovation, resilience, and sustainability.

PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI HOLDS TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF DENMARK H.E. MS. METTE FREDERIKSEN

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Denmark H.E. Ms. Mette Frederiksen had a telephonic conversation today. Both leaders discussed various aspects of bilateral relations as well as global developments.

Recalling high-level exchanges between both countries ever since the launch of

the Green Strategic Partnership in 2020, the leaders noted the expansion of the Green Strategic Partnership in various fields which have created favorable conditions for Danish investments in India to contribute to green transition.

The leaders also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister



PM holds telephone conversation with Prime Minister of Denmark

Narendra Modi said that he was looking forward to the 3rd India- Nordic Summit scheduled to be held

later this year in Norway, and his meeting with Prime Minister Frederiksen at that time.

INSV TARINI FLAGGED OFF FROM CAPE TOWN FOR THE FINAL LEG OF THE NAVIKA SAGAR PARIKRAMA II EXPEDITION

Chennai, 16 April 2025: INSV Tarini was ceremonially flagged off from the Royal Cape Yacht Club for the final leg of her journey to Goa on 15 Apr 25, at 1030 hours local time (1400 hrs IST).

The send-off was graced by the presence of the Officiating Consul General of India in Cape Town, the Defence Attaché of India to South Africa, members of the RCYC Governing Council, and representatives of the Indian community in Cape Town.

The circumnavigation is a significant endeavour aimed at promoting ocean sailing in India, showcasing the strength and resilience of Indian women in uniform, and highlighting India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.

As part of the ongoing Navika Sagar Parikrama II, INSV Tarini, proudly crewed by Lieutenant Commander Dilna K and Lieutenant Commander Roopa A, made a scheduled stopover at Cape Town, South Africa.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2117120>

During her port call at Cape Town, INSV



Tarini served as a hub for numerous outreach and diplomatic engagements. The vessel played host to several esteemed guests including:

- Shri Prabhat Kumar, Hon'ble High Commissioner of India to South Africa.
- Mr Reagan Allen, Deputy Speaker of the Western Cape.
- Mr Johnathan Rhodes, former international cricketer and a friend of India.
- Ms Kirsten Neuschäfer, winner of the prestigious Golden Globe Race 2022-23 and a noted solo circumnavigator.
- Smt Ruby Jaspreet, Counsel General of India at Cape Town.
- Members of the Indian diaspora and

local dignitaries.

This visit also provided an opportunity for cultural exchange and highlighted the growing maritime cooperation between India and South Africa.

In addition to hosting high-profile guests, the crew of INSV Tarini engaged in a series of interactive events aimed at promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and India's capability in indigenous boat building. These included:

- A special interaction with students from the Indian diaspora.
- Experience sharing with prominent citizens, and members of the diplomatic

community at RCYC, Cape Town, where the officers shared insights into their journey, the challenges of ocean sailing, and the vision behind Navika Sagar Parikrama.

- A formal session with faculty and Select students at the University of the Western Cape.

- Engagement with Naval Cadets at the Naval College, inspiring the next generation of naval officers.

- Interaction with young aspiring sailors of the Royal Cape Yacht Club(RCYC) Sailing Academy, promoting maritime spirit and camaraderie.

The crew also utilized the stop to undertake routine and essential maintenance of INSV Tarini, ensuring the vessel remains in peak operational condition for the final stretch of the voyage.

INSV Tarini is expected to reach Goa by end May 2025, marking the successful completion of yet another proud chapter in India's maritime history.

The Navika Sagar Parikrama II continues to be a beacon of women empowerment, maritime excellence, and national pride.

GOVERNMENT ACCORDS HIGH PRIORITY FOR MUSLIMS' HAJ PILGRIMAGE

Chennai, 16 April 2025:The Government of India accords high priority for Indian Muslims to undertake the annual Haj pilgrimage.

As a result of its efforts, the country allocation for India which was 136,020 in 2014 has gradually increased to 175,025 in 2025. These quotas are finalized by the Saudi authorities closer to the time of the pilgrimage.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) through the Haj Committee of India manages arrangements for the bulk of the quota allotted to India, which is 122,518 in the current year.

All the necessary arrangements including flight

schedules, transportation, Mina camps, accommodation, and additional services have been taken up and completed as per the Saudi requirements, within the given timelines.

The balance of the quota was allotted, as is customary, to Private Tour Operators.

Due to changes in Saudi guidelines, more than 800 Private Tour Operators were consolidated into 26 legal entities termed Combined Haj Group Operators (CHGOs), by MoMA this year. Addressing legal challenges, the Haj quota was allocated by MoMA to these 26 CHGOs well in advance.

However, despite

reminders, they failed to comply with the necessary timelines set by the Saudi authorities and failed to finalise the mandatory contracts, including for Mina camps, accommodation and transport of pilgrims, as required under the Saudi regulations.

Government of India has been continuously engaging on this matter with the concerned Saudi authorities, including at the Ministerial level.

The Saudi Haj Ministry highlighted its concerns for the safety of the pilgrims, particularly in Mina, where Haj rituals have to be completed under extreme summer heat conditions in a limited space.

It also underlined

that due to delays, the available space in Mina became occupied.

The Saudi authorities have further conveyed that they were not extending the timelines for any country this year.

Due to the Government's intervention, the Saudi Haj Ministry has agreed to re-open the Haj Portal (Nusuk Portal) to all CHGOs to complete their work in respect of 10,000 pilgrims based on the current space availability in Mina.

Directions have been issued by MoMA to CHGOs to do so urgently. India would naturally appreciate any gesture by Saudi authorities to accommodate more pilgrims.

TVS RACING GEARS UP FOR A THRILLING 2025 ARRC SEASON WITH A RACE-OPTIMIZED TVS APACHE RR 310

Chennai, 16 April 2025: TVS Racing is set to elevate the 2025 Idemitsu FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) by bringing a diverse set of top racers from across the globe, making the competition more intense than ever. Following three successful seasons, Season 4 of the TVS Asia One Make Championship (OMC) is poised to push the limits of both rider skill and machine performance. The championship will kick off at Thailand's Chang International Circuit between April 25 & 27, marking the beginning of an action-packed six-round season. Building on its strong legacy, TVS Asia One Make Championship (OMC) will see participants from newer geographies — Spain, England, and Argentina — further enriching the championship with global talent and raising the level of competition.

The 2025 season will also feature a race-optimized TVS Apache RR 310, engineered for superior performance, ensuring riders stay at the forefront of competitive racing.

Backed by four decades of racing pedigree, TVS Racing continues to push the limits of performance and innovation. In 2023, the TVS Apache RR 310 set a new class top speed record of 215.9 kmph, and in 2024, it raised the bar with a top speed of 216 kmph—alongside new lap records at Thailand's Chang International Circuit (1:48.33) and Malaysia's Sepang International Circuit (2:20.80).

The 2025 season holds special significance as TVS celebrates 20 years of the iconic Apache brand. Marking this milestone, the race-spec TVS Apache RR



310 features an enhanced aero package, increased power, and refined riding dynamics—offering racers a machine engineered for peak performance. With over 400,000 riders in the Apache Owners Group (AOG), the brand has also built a passionate global community, bringing the thrill of racing to both the streets and the track.

Commenting on the 2025 ARRC season, Vimal Sumbly, Head – Premium Business, TVS Motor Company said, "As we enter our fourth season at the Idemitsu FIM ARRC with the TVS Asia OMC, we are raising the bar once again with a race-optimized TVS Apache RR 310 and participation from diverse set of racers from new countries.

With top racers from 12 nations and key performance enhancements to the TVS Apache RR 310—including an upgraded aero package, increased power, and refined riding dynamics—this season is set to push the boundaries of racing technology and competition.

Our commitment to motorsport excellence continues to drive innovation, nurture global talent, and reinforce TVS Racing's leadership in two-wheeler motorsport. The 2025 season promises to be the most competitive yet, and we look forward to seeing our racers showcase their skills and set new benchmarks on the track."

Ron Hogg, Promotions Director of Two Wheels Motor Racing (TWMR) said, "TVS Asia has come a long way since its debut not only in accelerating the expansion of two-wheel industry within its target market but also in crafting and executing sportsmanship beyond excellence for the Asian motorsports.

This is evident not only from the year-to-year performances between man versus machine but also in its effort to progressively alleviate its standards through a diversified entry list. For the riders, this practice is an excellent approach in helping them reevaluate their level of performances in the face of new rivalries while simultaneously pushing them beyond their existing benchmark for greater successes.

As for ARRC, this ultimately aligns with our on-going mission of expanding beyond the existing demography of interest. This is what we hope to continue inculcating through this championship - a partnership that stimulates excitement while providing an enriching and valued adding experience for all. Season 2025 is about to kick-start and we are thrilled to watch as it unfolds."

Race-Optimized TVS Apache RR 310 for Peak Performance

The 2025 TVS Apache RR 310 is engineered for even greater speed, agility, and control. Key performance upgrades

include:

Increased engine power (+0.5 bhp) for improved acceleration and top speed across the race bikes.

Friction reduction technology through improved coating for optimized efficiency and durability.

Improved water-cooling efficiency enabled by aerodynamic enhancements for consistent performance under demanding conditions.

Further mid-season upgrades will take performance to the next level, featuring:

A more compact and lightweight design compared to the 2024 version, enabling better ride dynamics & ergonomics.

14% reduction in drag through improved aerodynamic efficiency for superior race performance

Modified gear ratios for enhanced cornering speed and precision.

Enhanced vehicle dynamics with an optimized rear suspension motion ratio.

About TVS Racing

TVS Racing, a pioneer in building Motorsports in India since 1982, has been integral in growing the racing performance culture and has been pivotal in engineering the TVS Apache series through the company's "Track to Road" strategy. The brand has redefined the sports segment by focusing on race performance, making it a highly desirable product for sports enthusiasts.

This has resulted in TVS Apache and TVS NTORQ 125 becoming the fastest growing brands in their respective segments. TVS Racing is also the pioneer of the One Make Championship in the country, the first Indian manufacturer to introduce the series in India in 1994.

ONE POINT ONE SOLUTIONS ANNOUNCE PLANS TO ACQUIRE MAJORITY STAKE IN AI SOFTWARE PLATFORM RM

Chennai, 16 April 2025: One Point One Solutions Limited (NSE: ONEPOINT), a leading provider of next-generation Business Process Management (BPM) services, has signed a binding term sheet to acquire a majority stake in an Intelligent automation-led enterprise, India's first deep-tech AI-powered autonomous software engineering platform.

This bold move positions. One Point One Solutions Limited to disrupt the global software development industry and redefine its future as a technology-first, AI-driven enterprise.

Pioneering India's Stand in the Global AI Arena:

Unlike traditional coding assistants or low-code tools, the target company is built to deliver fully autonomous, production-ready code across frontend, backend, and database layers— not just suggestions.

It competes directly with global giants like OutSystems, Mendix, and Appian, but with a clear edge: deep-tech AI built in India, for the

world.

By integrating this Next-gen AI enterprise, One Point One gains a proprietary platform that:

Autonomously builds secure, scalable software using cutting-edge AI (ML, NLP, RL).

Slashes time-to-market from months to days without compromising quality.

Supports multi-stack development and DevOps integration for enterprise-grade Agility.

Delivers AI-powered developer productivity to solve the global tech talent gap.

Why This Acquisition is a Masterstroke:

This acquisition is not just strategic—it's transformative. With the target company, One Point One Will:

Accelerate global expansion by offering next-gen software development-as-a-service.

Command a first-mover advantage in India's fast-growing \$15 B AI-Low Code/No Code (LCNC) segment.

Strengthen its digital transformation suite with proprietary AIIP.

Open new high-margin revenue streams via subscription and service -based SaaS across BFSI, healthcare, logistics, and more.

Transition from services to solutions—moving up the value chain with AI-led product Engineering.

A Massive Market Opportunity:

The global IT software market is forecasted to grow from \$737B in 2024 to \$2.25T by 2034.

Custom software and application development will grow at 22.6% and 22.8% CAGR, Respectively.

AI and LCNC platforms are driving this growth—and this AI-first organisation is built to lead.

A Strategic Leap toward a Tech-First Future:

Commenting on the acquisition, Mr. Akshay Chhabra, Chairman & Managing Director of One Point One

Solutions Limited said that "This acquisition is a turning point," and "We're not just acquiring a platform—we're acquiring the future of software development.

This smart tech-powered enterprise enables us to deliver intelligent, autonomous, and scalable software that aligns with our vision of being a technology-first digital transformation partner for global enterprises." This deal propels One Point One into AI-powered product leadership, expands its reach beyond BPM and ITES, and strengthens its position across verticals including BFSI, telecom, and retail.

AI That Builds. AI That Scales. AI That Wins.

The acquisition reinforces One Point One's commitment to delivering next-gen solutions with lasting impact. By owning this AI-integrated firm, the company is now equipped to lead the AI-led automation revolution, creating lasting value for clients, shareholders, and the industry at large.

IBC TO ORGANISE TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH ON 21ST & 22ND APRIL 2025

Chennai, 16 April 2025: The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture is hosting a two-day International Conclave at Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh, titled "Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North-East India" on 21-22 April 2025.

The event is likely to be attended by the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Pema Khandu. The Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Chowna Mein who hails from this region, is also likely to participate.

North- East India,

comprising Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura, is a significant centre for Buddhist traditions, monastic culture, and heritage.

The region has preserved and propagated various Buddhist traditions, including Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna.

The Government of India is actively involved in several initiatives to promote Buddhist tourism, heritage conservation, and cultural exchange programmes to strengthen the presence

of Buddha Dhamma in the region. To explore the significance of "Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North-East India", IBC is organising the 2-day event at the Multipurpose Cultural Hall, Namsai.

While the first day will include three panel discussions on - its historical relevance, art and culture of the region and cultural impact of Buddha Dhamma on the neighbouring countries, and vice versa, the second day will be dedicated to practicing Vipassana and praying for world peace at the famous

Golden Pagoda.

Historically, Buddha Dhamma reached North-East India during the reign of Emperor Ashoka and expanded to other neighbouring regions. It has played a crucial role in the Buddhist cultural corridor connecting India to Southeast Asia.

Besides, the North-East India is home to several indigenous tribes that have integrated Buddha Dhamma with their traditional customs. Diverse Buddhist traditions, Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna, flourish here.

OLYMPIC MEDALIST AND NOTED ATHLETE, KARNAM MALLESWARI MEETS PRIME MINISTER

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Olympic medalist and noted athlete, Karnam Malleswari met the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Yamunanagar yesterday.

He commended her effort to mentor young athletes. Shri Modi

wrote in a post on X: "Met Olympic medalist and noted athlete, Karnam Malleswari in Yamunanagar yesterday. India is proud of her success as a sportswoman. Equally commendable is her effort to mentor young athletes."



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SINGER SHAKTHISREE GOPALAN MAKES A STELLAR DEBUT AS MUSIC DIRECTOR WITH NETFLIX'S TEST - WINS CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Renowned playback singer Shakthisree Gopalan takes an inspiring leap forward in her artistic journey with her debut as music director in Test, the much-awaited Tamil feature film produced by YNOT Studios and helmed by director Sashikant. Starring acclaimed actors R. Madhavan, Siddharth, Nayanthara, and Meera Jasmine, the film has received widespread acclaim — with particular praise for its evocative and genre-defying musical score.

Celebrated for her distinctive voice and a portfolio of chart-topping songs featured in soundtracks of Indian films across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi, Shakthisree brings the same signature artistry and emotional depth to her work as a composer. The soundtrack of Test is a vibrant fusion of sounds, featuring a diverse lineup of talent



including legendary rapper Yogi B and Shakthisree herself, creating a truly global sonic landscape.

Reflecting on her experience, Shakthisree shared: “Working on Test has been a journey of creative growth, collaboration, and meaningful connections. I’m grateful to director Sashikant for brining me on board as a collaborator to craft the musical narrative of Test and for giving me the opportunity to be a

part of this project.

It has been an honor and privilege to be part of this film featuring such brilliant artists as R. Madhavan, Siddharth, Nayanthara, and Meera Jasmine, alongside an incredible team that includes editor Suresh, cinematographer Viraj Singh, sound designer Kunal, and sound engineer Rajakrishnan sir.

I felt a strong connection to the characters and their

stories, and engaging with the emotional depth of the characters and collaborating with Sashikant to shape the music around their journeys has been a rewarding creative process.

My heartfelt thanks to my gurus, my family, and all the incredible artists and collaborators who contributed to this project.”

Audiences and critics have unanimously praised the freshness, emotion, and innovative spirit of the album. Blending classical influences with a contemporary sensibility, Shakthisree’s transition from singer to composer has been both seamless and impactful.

With Test, Shakthisree Gopalan embarks on a promising new chapter in her musical career — one that redefines her artistry and sets a compelling precedent for the future of music direction in Indian cinema.

PU VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF. P. PRAKASH BABU UNVEILS NEW RO WATER PLANT FUNDED BY INDIAN BANK UNDER CSR

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Prakash Babu inaugurated a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Plant with a capacity of 250 litres per hour in the Humanities and Social Sciences Block situated in the Silver Jubilee Campus of the University. This facility aims to provide students in the vicinity with access to safe and

hygienic drinking water.

The RO plant has been sponsored by Indian Bank under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, with an approximate cost of ₹5 lakhs. M. Venkat Subramanian, Deputy General Manager, Deputy Zonal Manager P.



Subramani, Shri Viswajith, Manager, Indian Bank, Pondicherry University Branch were participated.

STARTUP SELECTED UNDER NQM LAUNCHES ONE OF INDIA'S MOST POWERFUL QUANTUM COMPUTERS

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Bangaluru based QpiAI, one of the 8 startups selected under the National Quantum Mission, coordinated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) announced the launch of one of India’s most powerful quantum computers featuring 25 superconducting qubits, on the occasion of World Quantum Day yesterday.

QpiAI-Indus, the quantum computer launched, is the first full-stack quantum computing system in the country and combines advanced quantum hardware, scalable control, and

optimized software for transformative hybrid computing.

It integrates advanced quantum processors, next-generation Quantum-HPC software platforms, and AI-enhanced quantum solutions.

With this milestone, QpiAI is driving deep-science and deep-tech innovation across life sciences, drug discovery, materials sciences, mobility, logistics, sustainability, and climate action.

As a part of India’s National Quantum Mission, QpiAI is at the forefront of building the country’s

quantum computing technology ecosystem, national quantum adoption programs, and creating one of the world’s largest quantum talent ecosystems.

QpiAI is committed to accelerating India’s quantum journey, making quantum computing technologies practical, accessible, and globally impactful.

The technologies from the company, bootstrapped in 2019, have led to 11 patent applications and generated a revenue of around Rs 1 million per annum.

They have also generated substantial

capital from the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

With this announcement on World Quantum Day which marks a shared vision for a quantum-enabled future that transforms industries, accelerates scientific discovery, and empowers the next generation of innovators.

QpiAI joins the global community of scientists, engineers, policy makers, and enthusiasts in celebrating the remarkable progress and possibilities unlocked by quantum science and technology.

BHARATIYA JANANA PARAMPARA UPANYASA MALA (INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM LECTURE SERIES) INAUGUR TED AT PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

Chennai, 16 April 2025: The Ananda Rangapillai Library of Pondicherry University and Vidya Bharati Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan, Tamil Nadu jointly organized and successfully inaugurated the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Lecture Series, a significant academic initiative aimed at reviving and promoting India’s indigenous intellectual heritage in contemporary academia and society. This joint effort seeks to foster awareness, understanding, and integration of India’s rich traditional knowledge into modern education and research frameworks.

The inaugural session commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. M. Vijayakumar, Program Coordinator and University Librarian at Pondicherry University. In his opening remarks, Dr. Vijayakumar emphasized the need to revisit and revitalize the Indian Knowledge System in light of its relevance to modern-day challenges. He outlined the objectives of the lecture series and



its potential impact on scholarly and cultural revival.

This was followed by felicitation addresses from Directors Prof. Tharanikarasu and Prof. Clement S. Lourdes, who both commended the initiative and highlighted the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge with formal education.

They expressed confidence that the lecture series would pave the way for meaningful intellectual engagement and cross-disciplinary dialogue.

They expressed confidence that the lecture series would pave the way for meaningful intellectual engagement and cross-disciplinary dialogue.

A special address was delivered by Dr. K. Sambathkumar, Member of the Indian Council of

Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi. He spoke eloquently about the depth and diversity of Indian philosophical traditions and the urgent need to bring these valuable insights into academic discourse. Dr. Sambathkumar also shed light on the various initiatives by ICPR to support the revival of classical Indian wisdom through research and publication.

The Presidential address was delivered by the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Prakash Babu, who provided an inspiring perspective on the relevance of the Indian Knowledge System in today’s world.

He emphasized the importance of integrating traditional wisdom with scientific inquiry and moral values, aligning with the objectives of the National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020. Prof. Babu recalled the “Father of Surgery” Sushruta and his contribution to society in the field of medicine and surgery. He also encouraged scholars and students alike to explore the vast intellectual heritage of India with a spirit of curiosity and respect.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Sanjay Pratap Singh, National Executive Council Member, VBUSS, Tamil Nadu and Assistant Professor at Pondicherry University.

Dr. Singh extended his heartfelt gratitude to all the dignitaries, guests, organizers, and participants for their enthusiastic support and active involvement, which contributed to the success of the inaugural event.

The inauguration of Bharatiya Janana Parampara Upanyasa Mala or Indian Knowledge System Lecture Series stands as a milestone in Pondicherry University’s efforts to promote holistic education rooted in India’s timeless values and wisdom traditions.

DEFENCE SECRETARY CALLS ON ITALIAN DEFENCE MINISTER IN ROME TO FURTHER ENHANCE BILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh visited Rome, Italy from April 14-15, 2025 on an official trip.

The visit started with the Defence Secretary calling on the Defence Minister of Italy Mr Guido Crosetto. During the meeting, the two sides held productive discussions aimed at further enhancing defence cooperation as a key pillar of India-Italy strategic partnership.

During his visit, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh co-chaired the 11th India-Italy annual bilateral Joint Defence Committee meeting with his Italian counterpart, Secretary General of Defence Ms Luisa Riccardi.

They discussed a wide range of defence, security and industrial cooperation issues including maritime cooperation and



information sharing arrangements between India and Italy with emphasis on Trans Regional Maritime Network.

The situation in the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean Region also came up during the discussions.

The Defence Secretary stressed on closer defence collaboration especially in technology and armament production, which is a priority area for India.

He also brought out that the Government of India is proactively building an ecosystem for defence production and innovation within the country through

conscious policy initiatives.

India has developed a vibrant innovation and industrial ecosystem.

In his keynote address during India-Italy Defence Industry Roundtable, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh shared his views on how the Indian defence industry has witnessed significant changes, particularly in the past few years through progressive reforms.

He said that these reforms have been marked by the creation of a conducive environment for the growth of the Indian Industry through transparency,

predictability and Ease of Doing Business.

An MoU between Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and the Federation of Italian Companies for Aerospace, Defence and Security (AIAD) was also signed, marking a significant step toward fostering closer cooperation between the defence industries of both nations.

The Defence Secretary was accompanied by a high-level Ministry of Defence delegation, comprising senior officials from Service Headquarters, Department of Defence and Department of Defence Production.

A substantial industry delegation from SIDM also accompanied the Defence Secretary to foster closer B2B connections between the Indian and Italian defence industries.

STALIN ANNOUNCES JUSTICE KURIAN JOSEPH COMMITTEE FOR RETRIEVING STATE RIGHTS

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Alleging that states' rights were gradually being snatched by the Centre, Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday announced the constitution of a panel under a retired Supreme Court judge on state autonomy.

The high-level committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Kurian Joseph will examine in detail the relationship between the Union and state governments to ensure state autonomy.

It will submit its interim report in January 2026. The final report with recommendations will be submitted in two years, Stalin told the state Assembly.

The committee will be tasked with doing research and submit an interim report to the state government on



January of 2026. The report is expected to be completed in 2028.

"To strengthen the relationship between state and union Government this committee will do a research and give recommendations," CM Stalin said in the Assembly.

CM Stalin also spoke about his stance against the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (NEET) and the NEP's three language formula. He said that many students have lost their lives due to NEET.

"We have lost many

students due to NEET exam. We have continuously opposed NEET exam. In the name of the triple language policy, the Union Government is trying to impose Hindi in Tamil Nadu. Since we have denied NEP, Rs 2500 cr to the state has not been released by the Union Government," he said.

Stalin further demanded that education should solely be a state subject, asking for the reversal of the 42nd Constitutional Amendment which allowed for education to be shifted to

Concurrent list.

The comments by the Chief Minister comes on the backdrop of Supreme Court terming that Governor RN Ravi's withholding assent to ten bills after they were reenacted by the State Legislature as "illegal and erroneous in law."

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said the Governor must act in aid and advice of the State Legislature on April 8.

"Action of the Governor to reserve the 10 bills for the President is illegal and arbitrary, and thus the action is set aside.

All actions taken by the Governor thereto for the 10 bills are set aside. The 10 bills shall be deemed to be clear from the date it was represented to the Governor," the judgment stated.

portals, other leading employment/ Gig platforms etc. to bridge the gap between jobseekers and private sector employment, enabling a holistic approach to public-private coordination in job facilitation.

Salient Points of the MoU:

Swiggy will regularly post verified gig and delivery job opportunities on the NCS portal and conduct hiring through it.

A P I - b a s e d integration will ensure real-time job postings and seamless application tracking for users.

Focus on inclusive hiring, particularly promoting employment opportunities for youth, women, and those seeking flexible work.

The partnership is expected to support structured onboarding, digital empowerment, and awareness of worker welfare schemes.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment remains committed to improving employment outcomes across sectors through the NCS portal and will continue engaging with the private sector to foster an enabling ecosystem for India's diverse workforce.

SINGAPORE PREZ DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT, GENERAL ELECTION ON MAY 3

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Singapore will head to the polls on May 3, after President Tharman Shanmu garatnam dissolved the city-state's parliament on Tuesday.

The Nomination Day will be on April 23, according to the country's election department.

P r o s p e c t i v e candidates will file their election papers on Nomination Day, after which there will be nine days of campaigning and one "cooling-off day"

before polling day.

This will be Singapore's 14th general election since independence, and Lawrence Wong's first as prime minister. Wong took over from Lee Hsien Loong who had helmed the Singapore government since 2004.

According to local media outlet CNA, the ruling People's Action Party is expected to be challenged for all 97 parliamentary seats. Voter concerns heading into this election include the cost of

living, jobs, as well as unemployment, CNA reported, citing a January survey.

The PAP has governed Singapore since its independence in 1965. In the last general election in 2020, the party won 61.24% of the vote, and captured 83 of the 93 parliamentary seats available.

The election comes at a time of heightened global turmoil, as U.S. president Donald Trump charges ahead with hefty tariffs on friends and foes alike.

Referring to tariffs, Wong said in a ministerial statement on April 8, "We are very disappointed by the U.S. move, especially considering the deep and long standing friendship between our two countries."

Singapore on Monday eased its monetary policy for the second straight time, as the city-state sees zero growth this year as a possibility after posting a lower-than-expected GDP expansion of 3.8% for the first quarter.

DMK FUNCTIONING WITH DIVISIVE AGENDA: BJP CHIEF

Chennai, 16 April 2025: "The DMK government is functioning with a divisive agenda, aiming to split the states. They do not believe in a united India," said BJP leader Nainar Nagendran.

Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday announced the constitution of a panel under a retired Supreme Court judge on state autonomy.

Speaking to reporters, Nainar

Nagendran said, "Ponmudi should be removed from his ministerial post. Action must be taken against anyone who speaks in a derogatory manner about women."

"There are Telugu and Malayalam-speaking people living in Tamil Nadu. The three-language policy does not impose Hindi on anyone.

Students are free to choose the language they wish to study. The DMK government,

however, is into several states functioning with a purely separatist mindset, administrative convenience."

"But now, just for the sake of elections, they are bringing in such resolutions. This is against the people and against the nation.

The public should consider this seriously and vote for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). There is no chance for the DMK to continue in power anymore," he added.

ACCOMMODATING TTV, OPS JOINTLY ADDRESSED BY BJP, AIADMK

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagenthiran has said that the matter of allocating seats to allies like the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) led by T T V Dhinakaran and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS) for the 2026 Assembly elections will be jointly handled by the leadership of the BJP and AIADMK.

Speaking to PTI, Nagenthiran emphasized that such

decisions would be made collectively, stating, "Only now, the alliance (with AIADMK) has been formed. Seat sharing will be decided by our Parliamentary Board and high command. AIADMK may also form a panel for this, and both parties will deliberate."

When asked about a remark he made after assuming charge on April 12 where he described himself as a "breeze" compared to his predecessor K Annamalai, whom he

called a "storm" Nagenthiran said debates and discussions on key issues were necessary and inevitable. He assured that he would continue to highlight public concerns, as he had consistently done, including during his time in the Assembly.

The 64-year-old leader, who represents Tirunelveli in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, was also asked about his calm and soft-spoken demeanor, especially in contrast to Annamalai's

assertive style. He responded that despite his gentle approach, he had never failed to strongly represent BJP's policies in the Assembly. "My soft image has never been an obstacle in promoting the party's goals," he said.

Nagenthiran also praised Annamalai's contributions, saying the former state president had helped grow the party significantly and commended his distinctive leadership style.

DRI INTERCEPTS 7.56 KG COCAINE WORTH AROUND RS. 75.6 CRORE AT IGI AIRPORT FROM AN IN-BOUND PASSENGER FROM DUBAI, ONE HELD

Chennai, 16 April 2025: In a significant operation against drug trafficking, acting on specific intelligence, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) intercepted an Indian national upon her arrival from Dubai at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, on 14.04.2024, New Delhi. The baggage of the

passenger, after a thorough inspection, was found to contain five empty handbags / purses.

Upon cutting open the inner layers of these five bags, 10 packets of white-coloured powder weighing 7.56 kg and worth around Rs. 75.6 crore, were found concealed and tested positive for cocaine.



The apprehended individual was arrested under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The DRI is

pursuing further investigations to uncover the source of the drugs and identify any potential networks involved in the smuggling operation.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT SIGNS MOU WITH SWIGGY IN PRESENCE OF UNION MINISTERS DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA AND SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

Chennai, 16 April 2025: Ministry of Labour & Employment and Swiggy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi today, marking a significant step toward strengthening employment linkages in the gig and logistics sector through the National Career Service (NCS) portal.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje.

In his address, Dr. Mandaviya stated, "The National Career Service portal is a dynamic platform connecting job seekers and employers across India.

With over 1.25 crore active job seekers and 40 lakh registered employers as of January 31, 2025, it is playing a crucial role in workforce mobilization.

This partnership with Swiggy will further extend the portal's reach into the fast-growing gig and platform economy, enabling access to flexible and location-based opportunities for millions of youth."

Dr. Mandaviya



welcomed the collaboration and appreciated Swiggy's commitment to potentially mobilize over 12 lakh job opportunities in the next 2-3 years through the NCS portal.

This real-time integration will enhance visibility of gig jobs for NCS users, who will benefit from timely and verified work opportunities across urban and semi-urban areas.

"This collaboration represents a win-win model, while Swiggy will gain access to a diverse, skilled, and job-ready talent pool, lakhs of job seekers across the country will benefit from enhanced visibility and access to employment opportunities," Union Minister said.

Highlighting the platform's accessibility and reach, Union Minister reiterated the government's vision of making NCS a one-stop solution for employment, skilling, and counselling, and at the same time capable of hyperlocal job matching and supporting both domestic and international placements.

Under this MoU, Swiggy will integrate