

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA ATTENDS FUNERAL MASS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Chennai, 27 April 2025: The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu attended the funeral Mass of His Holiness Pope Francis at Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City today (April 26, 2025). Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs,

Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State Minister for Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurian and Deputy Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly, Shri Joshua De Souza, who are part of the official Indian delegation, also attended the ceremony.



## GOVERNMENT DIRECTS AIRLINES TO IMPLEMENT PASSENGER HANDLING MEASURES AMID AIRSPACE RESTRICTIONS TO ENSURE CONTINUED PASSENGER COMFORT, SAFETY, AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Chennai, 27 April 2025: In the light of the recent international airspace closures and overflight restrictions, several flight routes have been significantly altered, leading to extended flight durations and the possibility of technical stops.

To ensure continued passenger comfort, safety, and regulatory compliance, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed all airline operators to implement enhanced passenger handling measures with

immediate effect.

Key measures include:

Transparent Communication: Passengers must be proactively informed about route changes, extended travel times, and any technical halts during their journey. This communication should occur at check-in, boarding, and via digital alerts.

Enhanced In-Flight Services: Airlines are required to revise catering based on the actual block time, ensuring adequate food, hydration, and

special meal availability throughout the flight, including any technical stopovers.

Medical Readiness: Carriers must ensure onboard medical supplies are sufficient and verify the availability of emergency services at potential technical halt airports.

Customer Support Preparedness: Call centers and customer service teams must be ready to handle delays, missed connections, and provide assistance or compensation as required by applicable

regulations.

Operational Coordination: Seamless coordination is essential among flight operations, customer service, ground handling, inflight services, and medical partners.

All airlines have been asked to treat this directive as mandatory. Failure to comply may attract regulatory action under the applicable Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR). This directive is effective immediately and will remain in force until further notice.

## SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COOPERATION ATTENDS SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN MINISTRY OF COOPERATION AND SWIGGY INSTAMART FOR ONBOARDING OF THE COOPERATIVE DAIRY AND OTHER PRODUCTS

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani attended the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Cooperation and Swiggy Instamart for onboarding of the Cooperative Dairy and other products onto the online marketplace.



The MoU was signed between the CEO, Swiggy Instamart Shri Amitesh Jha and the Joint Secretary of Ministry of Cooperation Shri D K Verma on Friday 25 April 2025. The signing of MoU will facilitate cooperatives to connect to new age customers through new age technologies.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the able guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah Ministry of Cooperation has taken

more than 60 initiatives to strengthen the cooperative sector of the country. The Ministry has recently taken many initiatives to provide access to market to the cooperative produce including the organic produce from the cooperative sector.

After the MoU, the products under Bharat Organics and other cooperative dairy products will now be available on e-commerce and q-commerce platforms of Swiggy.

The MoU aims to strengthen the cooperative movement in India by leveraging Swiggy's digital platform and outreach. The partnership will encourage the

onboarding of cooperative dairy products on Swiggy's Instamart platform and provide support for preferred access, ensuring greater visibility and reach for cooperative entities.

Swiggy will work with the Ministry to support cooperative brands in the areas of marketing, promotion, consumer technology, and capacity building.

A dedicated "Cooperative" category will be created on Swiggy's platform, with a focus on products such as organics, dairy, millets, handicrafts, and others that are developed and promoted by cooperative organisations.

This collaboration will facilitate

cooperatives in connecting with new-age consumers through new-age technology, thereby expanding their digital footprint and enhancing their market presence.

In view of the United Nations' declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperation, Swiggy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperation, will engage in an awareness campaign to promote cooperative movements, organisations, and products across the country. On 24 April 2025 Secretary Cooperation Dr Ashish Kumar Bhutani had inaugurated of the state-of-the-art packaging facility of National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh which is dedicated to the packaging of pulses and a wide range of organic food products ensuring high standards of hygiene and quality.

## NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NICDC) HONOURED WITH UDYOG VIKAS AWARD

Chennai, 27 April 2025: National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) was honoured with the Udyog Vikas Award during the Udyog Vikas event organised by Janmabhumi Daily, a leading news daily in the state of Kerala. The event was graced by the presence of the Minister of State for Heavy Industries, Public Enterprises, and Steel, Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma who highlighted the Union Government's steadfast commitment to developing state-of-the-art Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities across India.

During his address, Shri Varma lauded the transformational potential of the Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC) at Palakkad, stating that the project is poised to reshape the infrastructure and industrial landscape of Kerala and the broader southern region of the country.

The event also featured a technical session focusing on the National Industrial



Corridor Development Programme, providing in-depth insights into the strategic vision, planning, and progress of the upcoming Palakkad Industrial Smart City.

A dedicated session by NICDC Logistics Data Services Ltd. (NLDSL) further elaborated on the innovative digital solutions being deployed through the Logistics Data Bank (LDB) and Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).

The Palakkad Industrial Smart City, spanning 1,710 acres across Pudukkottai, Pudukkottai West, and Kannambra, represents a major milestone in Kerala's industrial development. Strategically located 21 km from

Palakkad city, 120 km from Cochin, and 50 km from Coimbatore, the project offers seamless interstate connectivity and significant logistical advantages, positioning it as a key industrial gateway for South India. With robust multi-modal connectivity via road, rail, and air, the city is designed to attract high-quality investments and drive regional employment and innovation.

Key project milestones include:

81% of required land already in possession.

Environmental clearances for all land parcels granted on January 01, 2025.

Letter of Award issued to Project

Management and Construction Consultant.

Finalization of EPC tender documents in progress.

The event also showcased NLDSL's contributions to transforming India's logistics ecosystem. Since its inception in September 2022, ULIP has integrated 43 systems from 11 ministries, connected through 129 APIs and more than 1,800 data fields, empowering over 1,300 registered companies and enabling more than 100 crore API transactions.

This technology-driven platform exemplifies Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a unified, efficient, and transparent logistics network in India.

NICDC's recognition at the Udyog Vikas event underlines its vital role in catalyzing India's industrial transformation and enhancing the country's competitiveness in the global manufacturing and logistics arena.

## EPFO HANDS OVER APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO 976 NEW RECRUITS IN 15TH ROZGAR MELA

Chennai, 27 April 2025: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, proudly participated in the 15th edition of the Rozgar Mela held today across 47 locations nationwide.

The event, addressed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi via videoconferencing, saw the distribution of over 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted youth in various government departments, including EPFO.

As part of this significant recruitment drive, EPFO welcomes new recruits to strengthen its workforce, ensuring efficient delivery of social security services to millions of subscribers across



India.

Appointment Letters to 345 Accounts Officers/ Enforcement Officers and 631 Social Security Assistants were issued today.

The newly appointed personnel will contribute to EPFO's mission of providing provident fund, pension, and insurance benefits, supporting the government's vision of a robust and inclusive economy.

EPFO has established Recruitment vertical in Head Office to

ensure regular recruitments and developed a recruitment calendar complying with directions of Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

During last one year, EPFO has recruited 159 Assistant Provident Fund Commissioners, 84 Junior Translation Officers, 28 Stenographers, 2674 SSAs among others. Further recruitment of APFCs, EO/AO, PAs and ASOs are underway.

The Rozgar Mela

aligns with the Prime Minister's commitment to prioritizing employment generation and empowering youth for nation-building. EPFO's participation underscores its dedication to transparent and merit-based recruitment, leveraging modernized processes to enhance service delivery.

The new recruits will have access to training through the iGOT Karmayogi platform, besides formal training enabling them to upskill and excel in their roles.

EPFO extends its congratulations to all appointees and reaffirms its resolve to foster a future-ready workforce that drives India's social security framework towards greater heights.



## SPECTRA LAUNCHES ENDOLIFTX® IN INDIA, PIONEERING MICRO FIBER BASED NON-SURGICAL AESTHETIC TREATMENT IN INDIA

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Spectra Medical India Pvt. Ltd., in collaboration with Italy’s Eufoton®, officially launched EndoliftX® in India today—an advanced, non-surgical laser treatment designed to tighten skin, reduce fat, and contour the face and body with minimal discomfort and minimal recovery time. EndoliftX® uses innovative optical microfibers connected to a laser device.

The launch event, held at Spectra’s corporate office in Chennai, brought together top dermatologists, plastic surgeons, media professionals, and beauty industry insiders for a first-hand look at the break through technology. The treatment, already popular in international markets, is now set to transform how aesthetic treatments are offered in India.

Mr. Ram, Founder and CEO of Spectra



Medical, shared his vision for bringing globally recognized innovations to India’s expanding aesthetics market and said, “India’s aesthetics industry is poised for a transformation, and EndoliftX® is at the forefront of this evolution.

This technology empowers individuals to achieve remarkable results with minimal intervention, aligning perfectly with the modern Indian ethos of beauty, confidence, and convenience.”

Doctors at the event, including plastic surgeon Dr. Jayanthi Ravindran and dermatologists Dr. Charanya and Dr.

Vignesh Karthik from Chennai, along with Dr. Priyam Bhagat from Mumbai, shared how EndoliftX® serves as an effective, non-invasive alternative to traditional facelifts.

They highlighted its ability to naturally boost collagen, improve facial contours, and address concerns like sagging jowls, under-eye bags, and skin laxity on the arms and abdomen.

A video demonstration showcased real patient results and gave attendees a closer look at the procedure in action.

Ms. Bianca Cosulich from

Eufoton® said, “With the launch of Endolift in India, we are excited to bring a truly unique treatment to the aesthetics space. It uses ultra-fine laser fibers to go deep under the skin, tightening, reducing fat, and boosting collagen—all without surgery. The results are natural, long-lasting, and come with minimal downtime, making it a game-changer for non-invasive treatments.”

The event wrapped up with a Q&A session, giving attendees a chance to dive deeper into the benefits and applications of this Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved procedure.

EndoliftX® is now available at leading aesthetic clinics across India. Known for its immediate results, natural skin regeneration, and no downtime, the treatment is ideal for those looking to refresh their appearance without undergoing surgery.

## ENGLISH RENDERING OF PM’S ADDRESS AT THE DISTRIBUTION OF OVER 51,000 APPOINTMENT LETTERS UNDER ROZGAR MELA

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Namaskar!

Today, letters of appointment for permanent government positions have been issued to more than 51,000 young individuals across various departments of the Central Government. A new chapter of responsibilities has commenced for you, the youth, in the numerous departments of the central government. It is now your duty to strengthen the nation's economy; it is your duty to reinforce the country's internal security; it is your duty to develop modern infrastructure within the nation; and it is your duty to bring about fundamental improvements in the lives of workers.

The more sincerely and honestly you carry out your tasks, the more significant and positive the impact will be on Bharat's journey towards becoming a developed nation. I am confident that you will discharge your responsibilities with utmost devotion.

Friends,

The foundation of any nation's progress and success lies in its

youth. When young people participate actively in nation-building, the country advances rapidly and establishes its presence on the global stage. Today, the youth of Bharat are demonstrating to the world, through their hard work and innovation, the immense potential that resides within our nation. Our government is ensuring at every step that opportunities for both employment and self-employment are expanding for the youth of the country. Various initiatives such as Skill India, Startup India, and Digital India are creating new avenues for young people in this direction. Through these initiatives, we are providing an open platform for the youth of Bharat to display their talents. As a result, during this decade, our youth have propelled Bharat to the forefront of the world in fields such as technology, data, and innovation.

The success of digital platforms such as UPI, ONDC, and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) today stands as

testimony to how our youth are spearheading the transformation of the digital economy. At present, Bharat records the highest number of real-time digital transactions globally, and a major share of the credit for this achievement belongs to our youth.

Friends,

In this year's budget, the government has announced the Manufacturing Mission. Its objective is to promote the 'Make in India' initiative and to provide Indian youth with opportunities to manufacture products of global standards.

This mission will not only give a significant boost to lakhs of MSMEs and small entrepreneurs, but it will also generate new employment opportunities across the nation. Today, we are witnessing a period of unprecedented opportunities for the youth of Bharat. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has affirmed that Bharat will continue to be the fastest-growing economy in the world.

This confidence and growth encompass many facets, and the most significant among them is the anticipated increase in employment opportunities across every sector in the coming days.

In recent times, our production and exports have achieved new milestones, particularly in the auto mobile and footwear industries, sectors that provide substantial employment to young people.

For the first time, the products of Khadi and Village Industries have surpassed a turnover of ₹1.70 lakh crore – in fact, nearly ₹1.75 lakh crore – creating lakhs of new jobs, especially in rural areas.

Just a few days ago, another remarkable achievement of the country came to light in the field of Inland Water Transport.

Before 2014, cargo movement through Inland Water Transport in our country amounted to only 18 million tonnes per year. However, this year, cargo movement via Inland Water Transport has risen dramatically, exceeding 145 million tonnes.

## PRESTIGE HOTEL VENTURES LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Prestige Hotel Ventures Limited, a hospitality asset owner and developer focused on luxury, upper upscale and upper midscale hospitality assets in India for both business and leisure travellers, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (“DRHP”) with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”).

The IPO comprises of a fresh issue of equity shares of face value of ₹5 each aggregating up to ₹1700 Crores and an offer for sale of equity shares of face value of ₹5 each aggregating up to ₹1000 Crores. The offer for sale comprises of equity shares of face value of ₹5 each by Prestige Estates Projects Limited (Promoter Selling Shareholder).

Prestige Hotel Ventures Limited proposes to utilise from the Net Proceeds an estimated amount of ₹1121.276 Crores towards full or partial repayment or prepayment of borrowings amounting to Rs 397.248 Crores availed by the Company and Material Subsidiaries, namely, Sai Chakra Hotels Private Limited and Northland Holding Company Private Limited, through investment in such subsidiaries amounting to Rs 724.028 Crores.

The company also proposes to utilise fund from the Net Proceeds towards pursuing inorganic growth through unidentified acquisitions and other strategic initiatives and



general corporate purposes.

Prestige Hotel Ventures Limited is a hospitality asset owner and developer focused on luxury, upper upscale and upper midscale hospitality assets in India for both business and leisure travellers. The company is a part of the Prestige Group and Promoter, Prestige Estates Projects Limited has 38 years of experience in real estate development and has a market cap of ₹729.66 billion as of December 31, 2024.

As of December 31, 2024, the portfolio includes seven operating hospitality assets with 1,445 keys which include 1,255 operating keys and one hospitality asset which is currently under renovation with 190 keys.

In addition, the portfolio includes three ongoing hospitality assets with 951 expected keys covering 1.88 million sq. ft. developable area and nine upcoming hospitality assets with 1,558 expected keys 2.64 million sq. ft. developable area. As of December 31, 2024, the portfolio

(comprising operating, ongoing and upcoming hospitality assets) has the largest number of keys among the major private hotel assets owners or developers in South India.

The company increased the operating keys at a CAGR of 6.89% between FY22 and the nine months ended December 31, 2024. The portfolio is spread across major metro cities and urban centres in India such as Bengaluru in Karnataka, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai in Maharashtra, Goa, Hyderabad in Telangana and Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The company has a track record of hospitality assets in strategic locations in India, i.e., close to airports, office locations and tourism hotspots. The company aims to identify and address market gaps, thereby providing offerings that enhance the portfolio diversification. The Portfolio includes convention centre hotels, business hotels, extended stay service residences and golf resorts.

The company has operating arrange

ments with various brands owned by Marriott International, including St. Regis, Edition Hotels, Resorts & Suites, W Hotels, JW Marriott Hotels & Suites, Marriott Marquis Hotels, Marriott Hotels, Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, Autograph Collection Hotels, Tribute Portfolio Hotels & Resorts, Moxy Hotels, Aloft Hotels and Marriott Executive Apartments (under renovation), and other global brands namely, Conrad by Hilton Worldwide as well as Angsana Resorts & Spa by Banyan Group. The company has the highest number of keys under operating and pipeline hospitality assets in the Marriott managed portfolio, aggregating to 9% of the Marriott managed portfolio.

The revenue from sale of hospitality services increased to ₹662.681 crores in the nine months ended December 31, 2024 from ₹560.343 crores in the nine months ended December 31, 2023. Further, the revenue from sale of hospitality services increased to ₹795.695 crores in FY24 from ₹636.169 crores in FY23 and ₹191.715 crores in FY22, reflecting a CAGR of 103.73% between FY22 and FY24.

JM Financial Limited, CLSA India Private Limited, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited and Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited are the sole Book Running Lead Managers to the issue.

## HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTER ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE QUALITY EDUCATION, EQUIP SKILLS, INFRA BOOST

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Moving the grants for Tamil Nadu Higher Education Department, Higher Education Minister Dr. Govi. Chezhiyan, has unveiled a series of significant initiatives for the academic year 2025-26. Earlier he called on Chief Minister Thiru. M. K. Stalin, before tabling the proposed announcements aimed at enhancing the quality of higher education, promoting Tamil language and culture, and equipping students with future-ready skills. Aimed at conveying the

excellence of Classical Tamil language to the younger generation, the “Maaperum Tamil Kanavu Programmes” will be conducted in colleges at a cost of Rs.3 crore.

Green frontage and uniform college name boards will be installed in Government Arts, Science and Education Colleges each at the cost of Rs.5 lakh. Conducting of Annual Cultural Programmes in Government Colleges each at the cost of Rs.2 lakh. Improving of Sports facilities in Government Colleges

each at a cost of Rs.1.5 lakh. Formation of a Course Review Committee to recommend new courses required for Government Arts and Science Colleges. Government college students will participate in a one-semester study abroad program at foreign universities

Establishment of Alumni association in Government Arts and Science, Engineering and Polytechnic Colleges each at the cost of Rs.2 lakh. Publishing of ranking list for State Higher

Education Institutions by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education. Construction of Buildings for two Government Arts and Science Colleges at Anthiyur and Aravakurichi each at a cost of Rs.17.50 crore. Procurement of a “New Mobile Science Exhibition Bus” for the Periyar Science and Technology Centre, Chennai at the cost of Rs.80 lakh. Provision of Wifi facility in all Government Engineering Colleges and Government Polytechnic Colleges in Tamil Nadu.



# TEAM SACHEIN THANK THE FANS AND MEDIA FOR MAKING THE RE-RELEASE OF THE FILM A HUGE VICTORY!

Chennai, 27 April 2025: In recent years, re-releasing popular Tamil films that were well-celebrated and successful among fans has become a growing trend. This allows fans to relive and celebrate their favorite scenes on the big screen once again. Thalapathy Vijay's Ghilli was a prime example of this trend, achieving massive success upon its re-release. This resurgence of blockbuster films in theaters has heightened the excitement among moviegoers.

In line with this, the 2005 romantic-comedy film Sachein, starring Thalapathy Vijay and Genelia Deshmukh was re-released globally across more than 350 theaters on April 18, after 20 years, and witnessed overwhelming success. To celebrate this achievement, the movie team organized a Thanksgiving meet in Chennai that was graced by the producer Kalaippuli S Thanu, director John Mahendran, music composer Devi Sri Prasad and dance choreographer Shobi graced the occasion.

Shobi : Dance choreographer Shobi, who choreographed songs like Vaadi Vaadi and Kanmoodi Thirakkum Bothu in the film, shared during the event:

"It feels like a brand-new experience to participate in the success meet of Sachein, which has once again succeeded in theaters. It's heartwarming to see today's generation celebrating the songs just like the fans did 20 years ago. Working with producer Thanu sir, director John



Mahendran, cinematographer Jeeva, and music director Devi Sri Prasad for the first time brings back fond memories. Thalapathy Vijay's cooperation was a major reason why the song sequences turned out so well. Producer Thanu possesses three cinematic treasures with Vijay sir – Sachein, Thuppakki, and Theri. I sincerely thank the entire movie team, my dance crew, and the media friends."

John Mahendran : Director John Mahendran then spoke:

"It doesn't even feel like Sachein was re-released; it feels like a brand-new movie has hit the screens. It's hard to believe 20 years have passed! Producer Thanu sir had informed me earlier about plans to re-release the film. He kept updating trailers and songs just like for a new film. The trailer, in particular, built great excitement and desire among audiences to watch it in theaters. The credit for that goes entirely to producer Thanu sir. It was astonishing to see the movie being released worldwide. While Thalapathy Vijay remains the major attraction pulling audiences to theaters, Thanu sir's marketing efforts also played a crucial role. Devi Sri Prasad's music and Shobi's lively choreography kept the audience entertained. It is deeply

saddening that cinematographer and director Jeeva, who captured such beautiful visuals, is no longer with us. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Thalapathy Vijay, Genelia, and the entire team for their wonderful cooperation during the shoot."

Kalaippuli S Thanu : Producer Kalaippuli S Thanu then took the stage to share some delightful memories:

"It would take more than a day to narrate how Sachein came to be with Thalapathy Vijay. During a period when Vijay was focused on action-packed films like Thirupaachi and Madhurey, I suggested a change. I told him about director John Mahendran and the kind of story he had – something in the lines of Kushi. After arranging for John to narrate the story to Vijay, just an hour and a half later, Vijay called me and said he loved the story and was ready to do it.

We released the film worldwide on April 14, 2005, and it was a major commercial success. Distributors reported excellent box-office returns, and the film ran for 200 days in theaters. Now, thanks to reduced advertising costs and the ability to reach fans easily through digital media, Sachein's re-release has also become a tremendous success, celebrated by families.

The day after the re-release, I visited a theater with my family and witnessed an unbelievable crowd.

Vijay is an actor who lifts and supports producers without any trouble. Theater owners also played a major role in the movie's re-release success. I sincerely thank the media friends who helped bring the film closer to the people and made it a grand success."

Devi Sri Prasad : Music director Devi Sri Prasad, who energized two generations with his vibrant music, said:

"I celebrate my life through music. Wherever I go, people still talk about how wonderful Sachein's songs are. Whether it's a concert or an award ceremony, I've never stepped off a stage without performing a song from Sachein. It holds a very special place in my musical journey. I sincerely thank Thanu sir for giving me this opportunity.

I still remember getting a call from him, saying, 'Wherever I go, people are talking about you!' He asked me to meet him once I was back in Chennai, and when we met, he told me, 'We are doing a film called Sachien.' He treats me like one of his own family.

A few months ago, he informed me about the plans to re-release Sachein, and seeing the way audiences are still celebrating the music even today fills my heart with joy. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire team and the media friends."

With that, the success meet event celebrating Sachein's re-release came to a delightful close.



gave us freedom and we treat them like this? Issue notice. Stay on impugned order," the court directed, Bar and Bench reported. While granting the stay, the

Bench also highlighted that Gandhi's grandmother and former prime minister Indira Gandhi had written to Savarkar praising him.

# 11TH BRICS LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT MINISTERS' MEETING 2025 ADOPTS DECLARATION UNDER BRAZILIAN PRESIDENCY

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting held under Brazil's Presidency in Brasilia on 25th April 2025. The meeting, convened under the slogan "Strengthening the Cooperation of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance", culminated in the adoption of a forward-looking declaration addressing two pivotal themes: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work" and "The Impacts of Climate Change on the World of Work and a Just Transition".

Sushri Karandlaje highlighted India's human-centric approach to technological transformation, aligning with Prime Minister Shri Narendra



Modi's vision of "Technology for Empowerment, Not Exclusion". She highlighted India's National Strategy for AI, which prioritizes ethical adoption, workforce upskilling, and sectoral applications in agriculture, healthcare, and education. Initiatives like FutureSkills Prime and the Namu Drone Didi program exemplify India's commitment to creating tech-enabled livelihoods, especially for rural women and youth. The National Career Service (NCS) platform, powered by AI, was showcased as a model for bridging skill gaps and connecting millions to employment opportunities.

On climate action, India emphasized it's just transition framework, ensuring green growth translates into equitable job creation. The Sector Skill Council for Green Jobs (SSCGJ) and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) were highlighted as transformative initiatives driving skilling and sustainable practices. India's achievement of reduction in GHG emissions (2020–2019) and its net-zero by 2070 pledge reinforced its climate leadership. Collaborative efforts with the ILO to protect workers' rights during this transition were

also emphasized.

Key Outcomes of the BRICS Declaration

The declaration commits BRICS nations to:

Promote inclusive AI policies that balance innovation with worker protection.

Advance social dialogue to ensure fair climate transitions.

Strengthen South-South cooperation on labour governance, digital inclusion, and green job creation.

India's contributions were commended for aligning cutting-edge technological advancement with inclusive social welfare, reflecting Hon'ble Prime Minister's mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas".

The meeting reaffirmed BRICS' collective resolve to build a future where no worker is left behind in the face of AI-driven disruption or climate challenges.

# UNION MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW LAUNCHES GUIDELINES AND PORTAL FOR ELECTRONICS COMPONENT MANUFACTURING SCHEME

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today launched the guidelines and portal for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), marking a major step towards strengthening India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

Speaking at the launch, Union Minister outlined the Government's clear strategy for electronics manufacturing.

He said India started its journey by manufacturing finished products to build volume and basic confidence, enabling downward integration.

This was followed by module-level manufacturing, then component manufacturing, and now manufacturing of materials that build components.

Highlighting that finished goods account for 80 to 85 percent of the value chain, he noted that the scale achieved in electronics

manufacturing has been phenomenal.

The Minister stated that electronics production has grown five-fold and exports have grown more than six-fold, with export CAGR exceeding 20% and production CAGR over 17%. He added that mobile phones, servers, laptops, and IT hardware have seen very strong progress and that the industry is poised to take off significantly.

Shri Vaishnaw described ECMS as a horizontal scheme that will support not just electronics but also industrial, power, automobile sectors and more.

He emphasized that a complete ecosystem for electronics manufacturing is coming into place across the country.

Underscoring the importance of innovation and quality, the Minister said that many companies have now established design teams, and it is essential that every participant develops such teams. Stressing on quality, he called for achieving Six Sigma



standards across the sector, warning that those not adhering to quality benchmarks would be cut short.

He said the twin focus on design capability and quality excellence would drive India's leadership in electronics.

Shri Vaishnaw also spoke about India's advances in AI and data-driven solutions. He informed that 350 datasets have already been uploaded on AI Kosh, and four AI tools developed by IITs will soon be released.

He further stated that techno-legal solutions are being developed to strengthen the electronics ecosystem.

The Minister informed that ECMS

has a strong pipeline of projects ready for approval and expressed confidence that this marks just the beginning of India's rapid growth as a global electronics hub.

Addressing the session, Secretary, MeitY, Shri S Krishnan said that ECMS aims to firmly establish India as an electronic manufacturing superpower in the world.

He added the MeitY will work with all the stakeholders to make the scheme a great success.

During the event, Sarvam AI was selected to build India's first indigenous AI foundational model, marking a major milestone in the country's AI innovation ecosystem.

# SC RAPS RAHUL OVER REMARK ON SAVARKAR

Chennai, 27 April 2025: The Supreme Court on Friday (25 April) issued a sharp rebuke to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his controversial remarks on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, cautioning him against making further irresponsible statements about India's freedom fighters. A Bench comprising Justices

Dipankar Datta and Manmohan, while staying the criminal summons issued to Gandhi by a Magistrate court, warned that similar comments in the future would invite suo motu action. "You have a good point on law and you will get a stay. But any further statement by him will be taken up suo motu. No words on our freedom fighters. They



## INDIAN ARMY’S PIONEERING INITIATIVE: ADVANCED 3D MICROSCOPE INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ARMY HOSPITAL (R&R) FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE GLAUCOMA SURGERY

Chennai, 27 April 2025: In a first and a unique milestone for the Armed Forces, the Department of Ophthalmology in Army Hospital (Research and Referral), New Delhi has performed the minimally invasive glaucoma surgery using 3D Microscope.

This three-dimensional visualisation system is very useful for eye surgeries, including treatment for squint, cataract, corneal, glaucoma and retinal

issues.

This system utilises special 3D polarisation glasses, and a 55-inch 4K ultra-HD display.

Potential advantages include significantly lesser surgical time/complication rate compared to conventional microscope, decreased power of endoillumination, reduced photo-toxicity, ease of use in uncommon and complicated situations and high surgeon and nurse satisfaction



scores. This initiative is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Indian Army in ensuring top-tier medical services reach to our clientele at the

apex institutes.

This facility aims to offer cutting-edge eye care services, enhancing the hospital’s capabilities in treating a wide range of ocular conditions.

## THALAPATHY COIMBATORE VISIT

Chennai, 27 April 2025: Actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder Thalapathy Vijay is in Coimbatore to attend the booth committee conference being held in on Saturday and Sunday.

Vijay got a rousing reception by his fans and party workers at the Coimbatore airport. The actor is expected to give a speech to the party workers.

The event is scheduled to begin at 4 pm today. The netizens can watch the event LIVE online. It is a two-day seminar which will be held at SNS College campus in Kurumbapalayam. The polling agents from 10 union districts will take

part in the event.

Vijay is expected to talk to the workers on working towards the regime change and the work each of them has to do to win the 2026 assembly polls.

In the previous meetings, Vijay had targeted both the DMK and the BJP. He had declared that the TVK is the only challenger to the DMK. "They act as if I am scared to mention names. We usually refer to the Centre, but who is in power there? Congress? We say the state government, but who runs it? AIADMK? You wanted me to mention names, and here I am doing it," he declared.

It is considered a



crucial meeting to reenergise the workers, considering that the actor's party is struggling to get allies to take on the DMK. The TVK was in talks with the AIADMK but it did not materialise. The talks between the two parties failed over the conditions laid by the TVK. The Times of India reported citing multiple AIADMK insiders. The Vijay's party insisted on leading the alliance,

wanted the actor to be projected as the Chief Ministerial candidate, and demanded 50% of the 234 Assembly seats.

If the alliance emerges victorious, Vijay should be made the Chief Minister for first half of the tenure. Vijay considers the DMK and BJP as political enemy and ideological adversary, respectively. However, the TVK is now in talks with the PMK.

## WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2025: NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN NEW DELHI HONOURS VETERINARIANS BEHIND INDIA'S LIVESTOCK POWERHOUSE

Chennai, 27 April 2025: In a tribute to the silent sentinels of India’s livestock economy, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, celebrated the World Veterinary Day 2025 with a National Workshop in New Delhi today.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj, who hailed the veterinary community as the "backbone of rural economy and national biosecurity."

India is home to over 536 million livestock, the largest in the world and nearly 70% of rural households depend on

animals for income, food, and security.

Yet, the people who ensure those animals remain healthy are rarely in the headlines, he added. Union Minister of State in his address said that “There is no healthy India without healthy animals,” while emphasizing upon the government’s commitment to modernizing veterinary infrastructure, enhancing skill development, and future-proofing India’s animal health systems. Highlighting this year’s theme, “Animal Health Takes a Team,” he stressed the importance of collaborative efforts among veterinarians, para-veterinary staff, scientists, and public health professionals to ensure integrated animal, human, and environmental health.

Prof. Baghel spotlighted key initiatives under the national vaccination program like the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), which aims to eliminate Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) by 2030, noting that over 114.56 crore FMD vaccines and 4.57 crore Brucellosis vaccines have been administered in the country so far. The NADCP aims to control FMD by 2025 and eradicate it by 2030 with vaccination.

Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel emphasized the vital role of indigenous breeds of livestock in strengthening the country's animal husbandry sector. He noted that these breeds are not only well-adapted to local climatic conditions but also play a crucial role in ensuring sustainable

and resilient livestock production systems. He stressed the importance of adopting advanced reproductive technologies, particularly the use of sex-sorted semen, goal of achieving 100% use of in vitro fertilization (IVF) to enhance productivity and breed quality.

The Union Minister of State praised the use of digital platforms like the National Digital Livestock Mission (Bharat Pashudhan) for traceability and disease monitoring. Addressing the rising threat of zoonotic diseases, he emphasized India’s adoption of the One Health approach, commending veterinarians for their role in disease surveillance, inter-sectoral coordination, and early warning systems to protect public health.

## REGIONAL POWER CONFERENCE WITH NORTH EASTERN STATES

Chennai, 27 April 2025: The Regional Conference of the Power Sector was held on 26th April in Gangtok in presence of Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Sikkim and Shri Manohar Lal, Hon’ble Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs.

The meeting was also attended by Shri Ratan Lal Nath (Minister of Power, Tripura), Shri. A T Mondal (Minister of Power, Meghalaya), Shri. F. Rodinglana (Minister of Power, Mizoram), Shri. Jikke Tako, MLA cum Advisor Power (Arunachal Pradesh), and Shri. Sanjeet Kharel (MLA cum Advisor, Sikkim). The meeting saw the participation of the Union Power Secretary, Secretaries, (Power/ Energy) of participating States, CMDs of Central and State Power Utilities, and senior officers from the Ministry of Power.

Hon’ble Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal in his address underlined the importance of a future-ready, modern, and financially viable power sector to fuel the country's growth on its journey towards becoming a developed nation.

He emphasized the importance of power in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat. He further remarked that the regional conference would help in



identifying specific challenges and solutions in respect of power sector of the North Eastern States.

He mentioned that despite the minor gap of 0.1% in meeting current power requirements, efforts must continue to meet future demands. Since 2014, power generation has increased significantly, and various modes of generation, including thermal, hydro, atomic, and renewable energy, must be advanced.

Addressing environmental concerns and moving towards non-fossil power is essential for achieving the Target of Net Zero Emissions.

He mentioned that through Government schemes like RDSS and PM-JANMAN, difficulties in the distribution sector are being addressed, and left-out households are being electrified.

The Minister highlighted that the distribution sector faces challenges due to poor tariff structures, suboptimal billing and collection, and delayed payments of Government department dues and subsidies. It is essential to reduce the AT&C losses and the

gap between Average Cost of Supply and Average Revenue Realised, to ensure that the distribution sector becomes viable. To achieve that, it is essential that the tariffs are cost-reflective.

He also emphasised upon the execution of works under RDSS, including Smart Metering Works, would go a long way in improving the operational losses of the utilities. He also emphasised that the Government establishments including Government colonies, should be prioritised for pre-paid smart metering.

He mentioned that States should work towards ensuring energy security and given the Hydro-Power potential, including Pumped-Storage, in the North Eastern region, the States should make efforts to effectively utilize that potential.

Secretary (Power), Government of India (GoI) highlighted the need for capital infusion to meet growing power demands and drive future reforms and modernization. It was mentioned that, given the long gestation period for power

projects, it is crucial to tie up for necessary power requirement as per the resource adequacy plan for upto FY2030 at the earliest. Further, it is also imperative to make necessary arrangements for intra-state transmission capacities as per the resource adequacy plan through various available financing models viz. Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB), Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM), budgetary support or monetization of existing assets. The Secretary also impressed upon the planning to be done by the States for meeting summer power demand through necessary tie ups.

Hon’ble Chief Minister, Sikkim in his address welcomed the guests and highlighted the key steps taken by the State towards improving the quality and reliability of power supply across the State.

He also highlighted the proposed plan of the State for further improving the power sector.

He also requested for interventions from GoI on various issues concerning the State.

The participating States thanked the Hon’ble Union Minister for the importance given to the North Eastern Region and also requested for continuous support of GoI for further strengthening the power infrastructure in the region.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES TO HOST “COASTAL STATES MEET 2025” ON APRIL 28TH IN MUMBAI; RS. 255 CRORES WORTH OF FISHERIES PROJECTS TO BE UNVEILED

Chennai, 27 April 2025: The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is organizing a “Coastal States Meet - 2025” on 28th April 2025, at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai under the chairman ship of Union Minister, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Shri George Kurian, Minister of State, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Minority Affairs will also participate in the event.

Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh will inaugurate and lay the foundation for key

projects for 7 coastal states and UTs with a total outlay of Rs.255.30 crores under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), under scoring the commitment of the government for advancing the fisheries sector in the coastal states & Uts.

He will also launch a set of key initiatives aimed at strengthening marine fisheries and promoting sustainable practices including Marine Fisheries Census Operations, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) project and release of Standard Operating procedure for Vessel Communication and Support System.

On this occasion, certificates will also be distributed to outstanding Cooperatives, FFPOs, fisheries start-

ups, and climate-resilient coastal fishing villages.

As part of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY), beneficiaries will also receive Aqua Insurance certificates and Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). Notably, the government has introduced Aqua Insurance for the first time, offering dedicated financial protection to aquafarmers.

This landmark initiative ensures targeted insurance coverage, digital accessibility, and focused support for marginalized communities in the fisheries sector. The meet will witness the gracious presence of eminent dignitaries, Shri Nitesh Neelam Narayan Rane, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government

of Maharashtra, Shri Raghavjibhai Patel, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of Gujarat, Shri. Nilkanth Halarankar, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of Goa, Shri Mankala S Vaidya, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of Karnataka, Shri Kinjarapu Atchanaidu, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Gokulananda Mallik, Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of Odisha, Shri K. Kailashnathan, IAS (Rtd.), Hon’ble Lt. Governor, UT of Puducherry.

Officials from Department of Fisheries, State Fisheries Departments, ICAR Institutes and Bay of Bengal Programme (BoBP) will also participate in the meet.