

Vice President calls for inclusive online education, says 'digital bridge should not become digital divide'

New Delhi, August 27 2021: The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu today called for an inclusive approach to online and distance education and cautioned that issues pertaining to access, quality and affordability might get accentuated with the pandemic and exclude many students in the process.

While noting the power of online education as a 'digital bridge' for people in remote areas, he stressed that care must be taken not to exclude students from socio-economically weaker sections and create a 'digital divide'.

To improve the access and affordability of the internet, especially in rural areas, Shri Naidu underscored the need for expeditious implementation of projects such as Bharat Net. The Vice President wanted institutions that undertake CSR activities to prioritise providing electronic devices to school and college students from socially and economically weaker sections.

Shri Naidu also noted the paucity of online courses in Indian languages and called upon private players in the educational technology sector to offer content in more regional languages. In this context, he recalled the tool developed by AICTE recently which translates English content online into 11 Indian languages and called for more such efforts. "Online

education should not remain the privilege of the few, but rather become the ultimate tool for real democratisation of education in India", he stressed.

Virtually addressing the first "Foundation Day" celebration of Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Ananthapuram, the Vice President noted how higher education can be a great economic catalyst for the community, bring development to a region and even spur growth of the country. In this regard, he expressed hope that the Central University will accelerate the educational and economic development of the State and unlock the potential of the Rayalseema region.

Noting the positive externalities of higher education, Shri Naidu called for pushing towards more 'internationalisation' of the Indian universities. He gave the instance of top global universities which attract international talent every year and have been thriving as centres of excellence, delivering economic benefits to the host nation.

In order to achieve internationalisation of the universities, the Vice President stressed the need to promote diversity among faculty and students as also to collaborate proactively with reputed global universities. He suggested encouraging Indian universities to open



global campuses, which will also improve the brand value of Indian education. "All these initiatives will generate enormous job opportunities, increase access to education in our country and act as growth accelerators for our economy", he said.

Recalling that India was once known as "Vishwaguru" and attracted students from all corners of the world to renowned institutions such as Nalanda, Takshashila and Pushpagiri, the Vice President said "We must regain that intellectual leadership and emerge as a global hub of learning and innovation again".

Referring to the stress on multidisciplinary and holistic education in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Shri Naidu called for strengthening education in humanities and social sciences in all universities. In this regard, he advised universities to update students of all disciplines with the latest technological

developments such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data and not engineers alone.

Appreciating the state government's efforts, Shri Naidu advised that all states should speedily implement the provision of NEP. He stressed the need to allocate more funds for infrastructure and suggested all possible support should be given to universities.

Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, Government of India, Dr. Audimulapu Suresh, Minister of Education, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Talarai Rangaiah, Member of Parliament, Ananthapuram, Prof. S.A. Kori, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Prof. Appa Rao Podile, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad, professors, faculty and students of the University and others were present during the virtual event.

Commenting on the success of the launch,

Mahindra Happinest® at Mahindra World City, Chennai garners over 125 bookings within only 11 days of launch

Chennai, August 25th, 2021: Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd. ('MLDL'), the real estate and infrastructure development arm of Mahindra Group, today announced the successful launch of its latest value housing project 'Mahindra Happinest®' at Mahindra World City, Chennai (MWC Chennai). The project includes multiple features and amenities that are first of their kind in the category and the micro-market it is pre-certified IGBC 'Platinum' and includes a vehicle-free, 20000 sq. ft. central podium; towers spaced 80 meters apart; and an outdoor calisthenics gym.

Mahindra Happinest spans 3.71 acres and comprises 348 1 BHK and 1.5 BHK apartments in Phase 1, ranging in carpet area from 34.12 sq. m. (367 sq. ft.) to 37.6 sq. m. (405 sq. ft.), and priced Rs. 20.45 lakhs** onwards. Moreover, all homebuyers in Mahindra Happinest stand to benefit from a Multiplier Rebate Plan ('MRP') that offers additional price benefits on early bookings. The project will be developed in two phases and handovers for the first phase are planned for early 2025.

Commenting on the

Vimalendra Singh, Chief Sales & Service Officer, Mahindra Lifespaces Developers Ltd., said, "The resounding success of Mahindra Happinest validates the latent demand for well-connected, future-ready homes that can transform quality of life through access to a thriving community; and best-in-category features and amenities that promote user health, well-being, and prosperity. At Mahindra Lifespaces, we believe there is significant scope to reshape the value proposition in residential real estate in India, and we are focused on building modern homes and communities that deliver superior life outcomes for users."

"Mahindra World City in Chennai is today globally acknowledged as an urban destination that is well ahead of its time, with superior rental yield and capital appreciation***. With the launch of Mahindra Happinest, our customers can now invest in a better future for themselves and their families in a planned, cosmopolitan township with ready social infrastructure, and a vibrant business zone comprising 65+ transnational and Indian companies," he added.



Mahindra Happinest has been designed with a focus on open spaces, resident privacy, and natural ventilation and lighting. The project comprises two L-shaped towers and includes a balcony and French windows in each apartment to maximise the expansive views. Interior spaces within the 'Plug & Play' apartments at Mahindra Happinest have been designed for flexibility of use, keeping in mind new age lifestyle trends, and can be converted into work-from-home zones or study spaces as required. Residents will have convenient access to the on-site Paravur railway station (0.5 km); the CBSE-affiliated Mahindra World School (2.7 km); a hospital (2.1 km); a commercial center with retail stores (2.3 km); MWC Club (2.1 km); hotels and

restaurants; a childcare centre; banks and ATMs; and an upcoming multiplex, all located within MWC Chennai.

Amenities at Mahindra Happinest have been carefully curated for physical fitness and mental agility, and include a multipurpose hall, rock climbing wall, indoor gymnasium, community sky deck, yoga deck, clubhouse with indoor games, party lawn, senior citizen corner and pergola sit-out area, among others. A podium-level kids' play area includes multiple activities to improve balancing and motor skills and enhance spatial awareness capabilities in young users. The project is ergonomically designed to be comfortable for senior citizens and the differently abled.

THE 1ST TIME TRANSGENDER'S KITCHEN INAUGURATED BY DR.A.DEVAKUMAR



Delhivery acquires Spoton to become one of the Leading B2B Express Logistics Players in India

New Delhi, August 27 2021: Delhivery, a leading end-to-end logistics, and supply chain services company in India, confirmed the acquisition of Bangalore-based Spoton Logistics. This move further strengthens Delhivery's existing B2B capabilities.

Commenting on the announcement, Sahil Barua, Delhivery CEO, said, "This development is consistent with our objective of being growth-oriented and building scale in each of our business lines. Over 10 years Delhivery has established a leading position in B2C logistics and now by combining our part truckload business with Spoton's we will be on the path to the same

position in B2B express as well. More importantly, we are well placed to provide benefits of synergies between our B2C and B2B express businesses to the customers of both Delhivery and Spoton, and further enhance our end-to-end supply chain capabilities".

Abhik Mitra, Managing Director, Spoton Logistics, said, "The Spoton team and I are hugely excited to be part of Delhivery's journey of growth and value-creation. The Delhivery team has done a tremendous job in creating a leading end-to-end logistics, and supply chain services company in India in a short span. Spoton is known for its focus on customer relationships and service

quality, professional management and technology and engineering, which are values shared by Delhivery as well, and that sets us up to together be one of India's leading logistics companies.

We will continue to invest in improving our clients' businesses through our investments in people, technology, network and infrastructure. Our teams and our business partners will have an opportunity to be part of a much larger organization with significant opportunities for growth".

Sandeep Barasia, Chief Business Officer of Delhivery, also added, "Spoton is a great business.

Abhik and the team have done a fantastic job of building the

company. We take great pleasure in welcoming the entire Spoton team to Delhivery. This is a coming together of two high quality companies with shared values. Our combined scale and focus on technology and data will enable us to develop new solutions for our customers and allow us to enter new verticals in freight".

Samara Capital and Xponentia that together acquired Spoton from IEP in 2018, are making a full exit for cash as part of the transaction.

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company acted as the financial advisor and Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. acted as the legal advisor to Delhivery on this transaction.

Chennai, August 27 2021: YES BANK and WheelsEMI Pvt Ltd, have entered into a strategic co-lending agreement to offer two-wheeler loans at competitive interest rates. The partnership aims at synergizing respective capabilities to provide an efficient and seamless lending experience to two-wheeler buyers across India.

The co-lending framework laid down by Reserve Bank of India provides a collaboration tool which benefits from the low-cost funds of a Bank and the sourcing and servicing expertise of a NBFC. This

alliance leverages the strengths of both lenders, making this a winning proposition for all stakeholders, thereby expanding the reach to underserved markets.

WheelsEMI offers a range of affordable solutions along the two-wheeler ownership-ridership lifecycle, driving affordable mobility for working families.

These include financing of new and pre-owned two-wheelers, access to Electric bikes, insurance, servicing, spare parts management and a transparent marketplace for pre-owned two-wheelers.

WheelsEMI specializes in financing customers in deep geographies through its unique model which bridges the digital divide between the urban and rural geographies while enabling mobility to the under-represented segment of customers.

Under the arrangement, both the lenders plan to finance over 1 lakh two-wheelers in the first phase.

Rajan Pental, Global Head – Retail Banking, YES BANK, said, "We are pleased to partner with WheelsEMI. This arrangement will enable the Bank to enhance its reach

by entering and deepening its presence in newer markets. We look forward to leverage the strengths of Wheels EMi in semi urban and rural markets and build a profitable and sustainable two-wheeler loan portfolio through this partnership."

Srinivas Kantheti, MD & CEO, WheelsEMI added, "Two wheelers present a huge white space, and we are excited to partner with Yes Bank. This partnership will leverage our investment, increase our reach while building a quality book for the Bank."

IndusInd Bank celebrates the unwavering spirit of para-athletes with its new brand campaign - '#Jeetkahalla'

Chennai, 25 August, 2021: In the year 2016, IndusInd Bank unveiled "#Jeetkahalla" - a campaign to honour its para-athletes under the Para Champions Programme, and brought to light their contribution to the country by creating a nationwide movement of support.

Retaining the essence of "#Jeetkahalla", IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with GoSports Foundation, has today launched a brand new campaign to commemorate the achievements of its supported para-athletes across various sport disciplines. Christened '#phirse #Jeetkahalla', the new campaign speaks about the rigour of the preparation undertaken by our para-athletes, as they gear up to compete with the best in the

world at an international arena.

As part of the campaign, the Bank has also unveiled a heartwarming and inspiring 'Anthem' that showcases the grit and determination of these athletes. Conceived & Ideated by Ankur Suman, Partner & Executive Creative Director, RK SWAMY BBDO, Produced by Films Rajendras, and Directed by Yogesh Agrawal, the anthem aims to inspire every Indian to cheer and support our para-champions in their quest to "Jeetkahalla", while also goes a step further, in reflecting the sheer determination, strength and resilience of our para-athletes, as they gear up to represent the country at an International platform.

Speaking about the new campaign, Mr. Soumitra Sen, Head – Consumer Bank, IndusInd Bank said, "Given the stupendous success of the #Jeetkahalla campaign in 2016, we were keen on nurturing it in a way that it becomes a testament to the para-athletes and throws light on how we, in our own way, are trying to make a difference to the wonderful community that we are a part of, while also focusing on our core mission of being a partner in every walk of life".

In a bid to give this initiative a wider reach, the Bank has embarked on a comprehensive digital media campaign that will create the right impact, and help in mobilizing the momentum of seeking encouragement for these heroes.

