

Experts from India & US discuss challenges & opportunities to combat Climate Change through technology-led Carbon Capture and Utilization solutions

Chennai, January 23 2022: Experts from India and US discussed the challenges and opportunities to combat climate change through technology-led Carbon Capture and Utilization solutions at the Indo-US Scoping Workshop on Carbon Capture jointly organized by DST India and DoE USA.

Dr. S Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India, said that at the recently concluded COP-26 at Glasgow, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi brought forth the country's remarkable performance as well as ambitions to meet the climate goals despite being one of the fastest growing economy in the world. "The PM has given a mandate for all of us to become a net-zero emissions nation by the year 2070," Dr. S Chandrasekhar highlighted in his opening remarks.

"Under a strict climatic regime, we can realize the identification and adoption of a right balance of portfolio of emission curtailment technologies. Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) is among one such key pathways to reduce emissions while continuing to develop sustainably at an unprecedented pace. CCUS



clearly aligns with five of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely, climate action; clean energy; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; responsible consumption and production; and partnerships to achieve the goals," he said at the first workshop on thematic of Carbon Capture.

Dr. Chandrasekhar briefed about the recent initiatives of the Department of Science and Technology towards technology-led RD&D in the area of CCUS. He informed that DST India became part of the transnational multilateral platforms such as Mission Innovation and Accelerating CCUS Technologies (ACT) along with other member countries, including USA for Collaborative RD&D in the area of CCUS.

He further added that the Department of Science &

Technology, Govt of India, and Department of Energy, USA are jointly organizing these series of Indo US Scoping Workshops on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage scheduled to be held from 21st January 2022 to 25th February 2022 for exploring the complementary strengths and gaps in the area of CCUS between the two countries and evolve collaborative technology-led endeavours for together working towards achieving net Zero Carbon goals.

Dr. Jennifer Wilcox, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM), U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), USA, said that India is a valuable partner in developing new technologies to help in combating climate & clean energy goals. This partnership was underscored when last

year Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched a new "India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership," which envisages bilateral cooperation on strong actions in the current decade to meet the goals.

Dr. Wilcox gave an overview of the US initiatives regarding clean energy and said it is a global crisis and requires a global response in clean energy technologies and an international partnership to achieve carbon net-zero status. She hoped that this workshop would provide an opportunity to broaden and deeper collaborations & engagements.

The participants comprised of academicians, researchers, experts, industry, and policymakers from domains of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage, Climate Change, and Environmental Engineering. The Experts from both countries delivered their technical insights and views for broad discussion within the contours of the proposed thematic of Carbon Capture, around complementary strengths and gaps to evolve future collaborative endeavours between India and USA to collectively work towards achieving carbon net Zero status.

Mauritius Launches Several Infrastructural Projects with India's Support and Receives Additional \$190 Million in Credit from the Indian Government

Chennai, January 23 2022: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday jointly inaugurated the projects of India's Social Housing Units in Mauritius with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi said, "Mauritius under our Vaccine Friendship Programmewas one of the countries to which we had sent the first COVID-19 vaccine. I am happy that today Mauritius is one of the few countries in the world that has fully immunized three-fourths of its population."

Referring to his Mauritius visit, Prime Minister Modi said, "During the 2015 visit to Mauritius, I had outlined India's vision of maritime cooperation of SAGAR 'Security and Growth for All in the



Region'. I am glad that our bilateral cooperation has implemented this vision. Today our strong development partnership has emerged as a key pillar of our close relationship."

Prime Minister Modi also said, "I would like to remember the stellar contribution of Late Anirudh Jugnauth to strengthen India-Mauritius ties. He was a visionary leader who was

widely respected in India and our Parliament also paid tribute to him. It was our privilege to honour him with the Padma Vibhushan award in 2020.

The two heads of State also launched two other projects 8MW Solar PV Farm project and the Civil Service College. These two projects have also received developmental support from India.

Apart from this, India has also extended a \$190 million dollar credit line for the country's Metro Express Project and other infrastructural projects. The MEA's statement also added that for the implementation of small development projects in Mauritius, a memorandum of understanding will also be signed very soon. Such assistance on projects in Mauritius is a sign of India's developing Neighbourhood First Policy.

Given China's foreign minister recently visited Sri Lanka, Maldives and Comoros to unveil various developmental projects, launching of India-assisted projects in the Mauritius should be considered an important development in keeping China balanced within the subcontinent.

Rajnath Singh virtually interacts with NCC cadets taking part in Republic Day Camp 2022

Chennai, January 23 2021: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh virtually interacted with the cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC), taking part in the Republic Day Camp 2022, on January 22, 2022. He lauded the youth organisation for instilling into its cadets the qualities of a leader, soldier, artist, musician and above all a good human being, making them a complete person. He commended NCC for developing the qualities of its cadets so that they create their own paths and give new direction to society. He urged the cadets to find purpose in life and take inspiration from many NCC alumni who made a mark in society by adopting the qualities of unity, discipline, truthfulness, courage, harmony and leadership taught at the organisation. "The NCC is doing a yeoman service to the Nation by transforming the youth into a cohesive

and disciplined force," he said.

Terming hard work as the key to success, the Raksha Mantri urged the NCC cadets to strive for a "new dawn of progress from petty jealousies and soul-sapping prejudices of regions, religions, castes and classes." He called for equality between men and women, enjoying the highest measure of liberty, consistent with the common good. He laid equal emphasis on moulding with the continuously evolving times and carrying forward Indian values, traditions and the feeling of humanity while bringing about that change.

Shri Rajnath Singh cited a saying of Swami Vivekananda, 'You are lions, you are souls, pure, infinite, and perfect. The might of the universe is within you', exhorting the NCC cadets to dream big and work diligently

towards achieving their goals by breaking the shackles of fear & scepticism. "Go ahead in your lives with a vision to create something new, something of the highest order, something that makes you successful and makes our country proud," he said.

The Raksha Mantri decided to interact with the NCC cadets virtually as he is still COVID-19 positive and following all protocols. He told the cadets that, being an NCC alumni and a teacher himself, he ensures that he doesn't miss any event organised by NCC.

During the event held in the NCC auditorium at Delhi Cantt, the NCC cadets presented a colourful rendition of the song 'Shat Shat Naman' to the Raksha Mantri. The event was marked by the announcement of the winners of this year's Raksha Mantri Padak &

Commendation Cards. DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and senior civil and military officers of Ministry of Defence attended the function.

The Raksha Mantri Padak was instituted in 1989 and since then it is awarded to the most deserving cadets and instructors every year for bravery or exceptional service of the highest order. This year, the Raksha Mantri Padak will be awarded to Cadet Divyanshi of Delhi Directorate and Lt Akshay Deepakrao Mandlik of Karnataka & Goa Directorate. Raksha Mantri Commendation Cards will be awarded to Cadet Capt Dheeraj Singh of Gujarat Directorate, SUO Suresh Manoj Sinha of Maharashtra Directorate, SUO KH Monita Singha of North East Region Directorate and Cadet Adarsh Sharma of West Bengal & Sikkim Directorate.

ECI extends ban on physical rallies and road shows till January 31, 2022

Chennai, January 23 2021: The Election Commission of India today held a review meeting with the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India through virtual mode. The Commission also held virtual meetings with Chief Secretaries, Chief Electoral Officers and Health Secretaries of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Chief Election Commissioner Shri Sushil Chandra along with Election Commissioners Shri Rajiv Kumar and Shri Anup Chandra Pandey accompanied by Secretary General and concerned Deputy Election Commissioners held a comprehensive review of the present situation with respect to status and projected trends of COVID pandemic in the five poll going states. The Commission also reviewed Vaccination status and action plan for expeditiously completing vaccination for 1st, 2nd and booster dose for eligible persons amongst polling personnel. The Commission deliberated on relaxing restrictions for physical rallies in the wake of prevailing situation.

After taking into consideration inputs and ground reports from these officers, the Commission also deliberated on requirements of the campaign period in phases where candidate list will be finalised on January 27, 2022 for Phase 1 and on January 31, 2022 for Phase 2.

After considering the present situation, facts and circumstances as also the inputs received in these meetings, Commission has decided as follows:

(1) No road show, Pad-yatra, cycle/bike/vehicle rally and procession shall be allowed till January 31, 2022.

(2) Since contesting candidates for Phase 1 elections will be finalised on January 27, 2022, Commission has decided to allow physical meetings of concerned Political parties or contesting candidates in designated open spaces with a maximum of 500 persons or 50% of the capacity of the ground or the prescribed limit set by SDMA, whichever number is lesser, from January 28, 2022 till February 8, 2022 (excluding the silence period).

(3) Since contesting candidates for Phase 2 elections will be finalised on January 31 2022, Commission has decided to allow physical meetings of concerned Political parties or contesting candidates with public in designated open spaces with a maximum of 500 persons or 50% of the capacity of the ground or the prescribed limit set by SDMA, whichever number is lesser, from February 1, 2022 till February 12, 2022 (excluding the silence period).

(4) The Commission has also enhanced the limit of door to door campaign. Instead of 5 persons, now 10 persons, excluding security personnel, will be allowed for door to door campaigns. Other instructions on door to door campaigns will continue.

(5) Commission has already granted relaxation for the political parties to the extent that indoor meetings of a maximum of 300 persons or 50% of the capacity of the hall or the prescribed limit set by SDMA is allowed.

(6) Commission has also allowed video vans for publicity with usual

COVID restrictions at designated open spaces with a maximum of 500 viewers or 50 % of the capacity or the limit set by SDMA, whichever number is lesser, in the poll going States subject to public convenience and no hindrance to smooth flow of traffic. (Instructions in this regard are being sent to the CEOs separately).

(7) Political parties and contesting candidates shall ensure the compliance of COVID appropriate behaviour & guidelines and Model Code of Conduct at all occasions during the activities connected with elections.

(8) It shall be the responsibility of the DEO concerned to identify and to notify the designated spaces in advance for the aforesaid purposes.

(9) All remaining restrictions as contained in the Revised Broad Guidelines for Conduct of Elections, 2022 issued on January 8, 2022 shall continue to operate.

All concerned State/District authorities shall ensure full compliance of these instructions.

The Commission will review these instructions at a subsequent date.

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ALL ONLINE SERVICES

TVS Credit and IIM Trichy sign a MoU to boost innovation and create solutions for financial inclusion

Chennai, January 23, 2022: India's leading financial services provider TVS Credit Services Limited and the Indian Institute of Management Trichy (IIMT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost innovation, R&D, and collaboration for designing new solutions for promoting financial inclusion in the country. Being one of the fast-growing NBFCs in the country, TVS Credit's partnership with the leading B-school, IIMT, will create an avenue to leverage the collective talent and expertise from both institutions for product development, knowledge creation and research in the areas of management and public policy.

Speaking on the collaboration, Venkatraman G, Chief Executive Officer, TVS Credit, said, "The signing of the MoU with IIM Trichy will create the foundation for future

collaboration between the two institutions. TVS Credit has been successfully empowering people across sectors and helping them fulfil their aspirations. It has been a constant endeavour of TVS Credit to steer industry growth and national development by encouraging product innovation and nurturing young talent. The outcomes from such initiatives will help us drive organisational growth and serve our customers and the nation better for years to come. The collaboration will help boost innovation, R&D, and help in designing new solutions to promote financial inclusion in the country."

The partnership would bring together academic and industry stalwarts and professionals who would jointly design, develop and deliver cutting-edge technological solutions in areas of management and financial inclusion. The strategic collaboration will

also be a platform to train and mentor young professionals. Speaking on the collaboration, Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh, Director, IIM Trichy, said, "We welcome this significant initiative that formalises and strengthens our relationship with the leading market player, TVS Credit, a company which is well-known for its services and values. We look forward to make the collaboration fruitful on multiple platforms and focus on mutual knowledge exchange initiatives. Such partnerships will help construct concrete and innovative solutions, thereby creating a long-lasting impact."

Additionally, Dr. Prashant Gupta, Chairperson of Executive Education and Consulting, IIM Trichy, said, "We are pleased to be associated with TVS Credit. This partnership could lead to a mutually benefitting journey in the coming time

with a special focus on programmes such as Management Development Programme (MDP) and Leadership Development Program (LDP). Furthermore, it will mentor the students at IIM Trichy and offer them immense industry exposure."

Under this collaboration, both organisations are creating a seamless ecosystem between industries, academia and government agencies by leveraging analytics and technology. It aims to provide these solutions in consulting, research projects, placements, management development programmes, and case studies. The first beneficiaries of this initiative will be the TVS Credit employees and the students of IIMT. The pact holds a strong potential to revolutionise the industry at large. In addition, it is expected to help the NBFC sector improve resource efficiency and productivity.

Shoot DSLR-grade Bokeh Flare Portrait photos and videos on OPPO Reno7 Pro 5G with the world-first exclusive Sony IMX709 selfie sensor and Sony's flagship IMX766 sensor

Chennai, January 23, 2022: In keeping with its constant innovations in smartphone camera technology, OPPO, the leading global smart devices brand, is set to launch its portrait expert, the Reno7 Pro 5G.

The handset features Sony's new 32MP IMX709 selfie sensor with its 50MP IMX766 flagship camera sensor at the rear.

The IMX709—exclusive to OPPO—is a customised RGBW (red, blue, green, white) front image sensor that can capture crisper and more evenly-exposed photos and videos; it is 60% more sensitive to light and reduces noise by 30% when compared to traditional RGB sensors.



For selfies, the Reno7's front camera automatically switches from 85° to a 90° angle when it detects more than two people in the viewfinder to capture multiple person snapshots. Additionally, in portrait photos, camera algorithms separate the subject in the foreground, detect light sources in the background to produce a soft lens flare and

finally, blur the background for a more natural-looking Bokeh flare effect.

The Reno7 Pro 5G comes with an industry-leading rear camera setup which includes Sony's flagship IMX766 large rear sensor that captures more light when shooting photos and videos. It also supports 26 adjustable bokeh levels that produce DSLR-grade images and videos.

The Reno7 Pro 5G's rear camera features the industry's first exclusive Bokeh Flare Portrait video that accurately identifies the human subject in any complex background and makes them stand out from a blurred background complete with soft-light lens flares.

Both, the IMX709 and IMX766, support DOL-HDR technology which increases the dynamic range to shoot well-exposed images and detailed low-light videos; the cameras capture multiple long-exposure and short-exposure frames almost simultaneously and fuse them into a single vibrant snapshot.

Block your calendar for complete specifications and Reno7 Pro 5G pricing during the official launch event

3 out of 4 people in Chennai plan to switch to ownership over renting assets: Post 'Generation-Rent' study by Godrej Housing Finance

Chennai, January 23, 2022: 72% people in Chennai prefer asset owning over renting to secure their personal future in the post-pandemic world, revealed the latest study, Post 'Generation-Rent' by Godrej Housing Finance (GHF). The study was commissioned to gain insight into the shift in consumer's preference and the factors thereof that drive the decisions for considering property purchase, asset creation, and investment avenues by Indian consumers to secure their future in a post-pandemic world.

The study further revealed that 44% of people in the city have started looking for a new house and a home loan provider in the past one year, and 27% are looking to buy a new house as they always wanted to buy a dream house of their own. 23% respondents said that they are looking for a new house as they have saved enough for a down payment due to absence of travel. This is the highest for any other city in India. Further, the study revealed

that Chennai respondents consider customer service and ease of communicating with the company/staff utmost important while choosing a home loan provider compared to this is the most for any city in India.

'Generation-Rent' is a well-documented phenomenon associated with Millennials across the world who prefer to rent over asset ownership of consumer durables, and even housing. In stark contrast to earlier assumptions, the study also highlighted around 76% of Indians now plan to switch from renting to owning assets as an investment and lifestyle choice.

The Post 'Generation-Rent' study by Godrej Housing Finance revealed that almost half of Indians (49.13%) had started making headway in their house-hunting aspirations and reaching out to housing finance companies in the past year. 32.9% believe that buying a new house is the best investment option at present, while 16%

mentioned owning a house is a top priority as work from home is the new normal.

The study also found that 25.5% of the Indians consider owning a home the second-most important aspect defining 'personal security', with job security leading the chart with 40.6% voting for it.

Commenting on the findings, Manish Shah, MD & CEO, Godrej Housing Finance, said, "The pandemic has brought about a clear shift in preference amongst Indian consumers. They are gravitating towards future-proofing through long-term investments. With affordability at an all-time high, there has probably never been a better time to buy a house, which is both an important element of asset allocation and a key pillar of financial security. That said, customers believe that this change requires enhanced support from their financial partner to advise and guide them through this long-term commitment. The study re-

affirmed our need to double down on offering innovation, flexibility and digital alternatives in both product design and delivery to facilitate homeownership better and ease the customer's financing journey."

The study further revealed that flexibility on policy, credibility and transparency of the brand, digital offerings, and relative turnaround time for processing are the top factors that drive the selection of financing partner. This can be attributed to consumers becoming accustomed to the on-demand gratification of their requirements aided by digital technology.

The study also found that digital-first and frictionless processes are perceived as both an advantage and a starting point for consumers while choosing today's financing brands. Companies and services that offer end-to-end digital solutions gain an edge in consumer preference over more traditional financing models.

SBI Life Insurance registers New Business Premium of Rs 18,791 crores for the period ended on 31st December, 2021

Chennai, January 23, 2022: SBI Life Insurance, one of the leading life insurers in the country registered a New Business Premium of Rs 18,791 crores for the period ended on 31st December, 2021 vis-à-vis Rs 14,437 crores for the period ended December 31, 2020. Regular premium has increased by 36% over the corresponding period ended on 31st December, 2020.

Establishing a clear focus on protection, SBI Life's protection new business premium stood at Rs 2,042 crores for the period ended December 31, 2021 marking a growth of 26%. Protection Individual new business premium registered a growth of 27% and stood at Rs 620 crores for the period ended December 31, 2021. Individual New Business Premium stands at Rs 11,611

crores with 43% growth over the corresponding period ended 31st December, 2020.

SBI Life's profit after tax stands at Rs 834 crores for the period ended December 31, 2021.

The company's solvency ratio continues to remain robust at 2.09 as on December 31, 2021 as against the regulatory requirement of 1.50.

SBI Life's AUM also continued to grow at 23% to Rs 2,56,871 crores as on December 31, 2021 from Rs 2,09,495 crores as on December 31, 2020, with the debt-equity mix of 71:29. Over 96% of the debt investments are in AAA and Sovereign instruments.

The company has a diversified distribution network of 1,94,177 trained

insurance professionals and wide presence with 947 offices across the country, comprising of strong bancassurance channel, agency channel and others comprising of corporate agents, brokers, micro agents, common service centers, insurance marketing firms, web aggregators and direct business.

Performance for the period ended December 31, 2021

66% growth in Value of New Business (VoNB)* to Rs 2,589 crores.

VoNB Margin* improved by 470 bps to 25.5%.

Private Market leadership in Individual Rated Premium (IRP) of Rs 9,072 crores with 24.8% share.

Strong growth in Protection New Business Premium of 26% to Rs 2,042 crores.

Strong growth in Individual New Business Premium of 43% to Rs 11,611 crores.

22% growth in Individual New Business Sum Assured

13th month persistency ratio improved by 49 bps to 83.87%.

Robust Solvency ratio of 2.09.

Assets under Management (AuM) grew by 23% to Rs 2,56,871 crores.

On Effective tax rate basis

On Premium Basis

PM interacts with DMs of various districts on the implementation of key government schemes

Chennai, January 23, 2022: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi interacted with DMs of various districts on the implementation of key government schemes via video conference.

The DMs shared their experience which has led to improvement of performance of their districts on a host of indicators. The Prime Minister sought direct feedback from them about the key steps taken by them which has resulted in success in the districts, and about the challenges faced by them in this endeavour. He also asked them about how working under the aspirational districts programme has been different from their work done earlier. The officers discussed how JanBhagidari has been a key factor behind this success. They spoke about how they kept people working in their team motivated on a daily basis, and made efforts to develop the feeling that they were not doing a job but were performing a service. They also spoke about increased inter-departmental coordination and benefits of data driven governance.

CEO, NITI Aayog gave an overview of the progress and implementation of the Aspirational District programme. He mentioned how the programme leveraged competitive and cooperative federalism, driven by a Team India spirit. The efforts have resulted in these districts performing remarkably better in every parameter, a fact which has been recognized independently by global experts as well. The best practises like smart classroom initiative from Banka, Bihar; Mission Aparajita to prevent child marriages in Koraput, Odisha etc. were replicated by other districts as well. Analysis of performance of districts vis-a-vis stability of tenure of key officials of the district was also presented.

Rural Development Secretary gave a presentation on a mission to uplift 142

selected districts, on the lines of the focussed work done in the aspirational districts. Centre and State will work together to uplift these identified districts to address the pockets of under-development. 15 sectors corresponding to 15 Ministries and Departments were identified. In the sectors, key performance indicators (KPIs) were identified. The aim of the government is to ensure that the KPIs in the selected districts surpass the state average in the next one year and that they come at par with national average in two years. Each concerned Ministry/Department has identified its set of KPIs, on the basis of which, districts were selected. The initiative is aimed at achieving saturation of various schemes by various departments in the districts in mission mode, in convergence with all stakeholders. Secretaries of various Ministries and Departments presented an overview of an action plan about how their ministries will go about in achieving these targets.

Addressing the officials, the Prime Minister noted that when the aspirations of others become your aspirations, when fulfilling the dreams of others becomes the measure of your success, then that path of duty creates history. Today we are seeing this history being made in the aspirational districts of the country, he added.

The Prime Minister noted that various factors led to a situation where aspirational districts, in the past, started lagging behind. In order to facilitate holistic development, special hand-holding was done for the aspirational districts. The situation has changed now as today, Aspirational Districts are eliminating the barriers of the progress of the country. The Aspirational Districts are becoming an accelerator instead of an obstacle. The Prime Minister underlined the expansion and redesigning that has taken place due to the campaign in the Aspirational

Districts. This has given a concrete form to the federal spirit and culture of the Constitution, the basis of which is the team work of centre-state and local administration, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister stressed that for development in aspirational districts, a direct and emotional connect between the administration and the public is very important. A sort of 'top to bottom' and 'bottom to top' flow of governance. Important aspect of this campaign is technology and innovation, he said. The Prime Minister also mentioned districts where excellent results have been obtained by the use of technology and innovation in the fields like malnutrition, clean drinking water and vaccination.

The Prime Minister noted that convergence is a major reason for the country's success in the aspirational districts. All resources are the same, government machinery is the same, officials are the same but the results are different. Seeing the entire district as a unit enables the officer to feel the enormity of her efforts and give a sense of purpose of life and satisfaction of bringing meaningful change.

The Prime Minister noted that during the last 4 years, Jan-Dhan accounts have increased by 4-5 times in almost every aspirational district. Almost every family has got a toilet and electricity has reached every village. A new energy has been infused in people's lives, he said. The Prime Minister said due to a tough life the people of Aspirational Districts are more hard-working, courageous and capable of taking risks and this strength should be recognized.

The Prime Minister remarked that aspirational districts have proved due to the elimination of silos in implementation optimum utilisation of resources takes place. He emphasized the

exponential benefits of this reform and said when silos end, 1+1 doesn't become 2, 1+1, becomes 11. We see this collective power in the Aspirational Districts today, the Prime Minister said. Elaborating on the approach of governance in the Aspirational Districts, the Prime Minister said that, firstly, people were consulted in identification of their problems. Second, the working style kept on being refined on the basis of experiences in the Aspirational Districts and measurable indicators, real time monitoring of progress, healthy competition among the districts and replication of good practices were encouraged. Thirdly, through reforms like stable tenures of the officers, creation of effective teams was encouraged. This helped in getting big results even with limited resources. The Prime Minister asked for developing detailed guidelines for field visits, inspections and night halts for proper implementation and monitoring.

The Prime Minister drew the attention of the officers towards the changed mindset of New India. He reiterated that today, during the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, the country's goal is to achieve 100% saturation of services and facilities. That is, we have a long way to go compared to the milestones we have achieved so far and have to work on a much bigger scale. He stressed time-bound targets for taking roads to all the villages of the districts, ayushman cards, bank account to every person, Ujjwala gas connection, insurance, pension housing for everyone. He called for a two year vision for every district. He suggested that every district can identify 10 tasks to be completed in the next 3 months to improve ease of living for common people. Similarly, 5 tasks may be associated with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to achieve historical success in this historical epoch.

Government to Promote Drone use in Agriculture - Financial Support Being Extended Under 'Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization'

Chennai, January 23, 2022: In a major boost to promote precision farming in India, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has issued guidelines to make drone technology affordable to the stakeholders of this sector. The guidelines of "Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization" (SMAM) have been amended which envisages granting upto 100% of the cost of agriculture drone or Rs. 10 lakhs, whichever is less, as grant for purchase of drones by the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Agriculture Universities for taking up large scale demonstrations of this technology on the farmers' fields.

The Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) would be eligible to receive grant up to 75% of the cost of agriculture drone for its demonstrations on the farmers' fields.

A contingency

expenditure of Rs.6000 per hectare would be provided to implementing agencies that do not want to purchase drones but will hire drones for demonstrations from Custom Hiring Centres, Hi-tech Hubs, Drone Manufacturers and Start-Ups. The contingent expenditure to implementing agencies that purchase drones for drone demonstrations would be limited to Rs.3000 per hectare. The financial assistance and grants would be available until March 31, 2023.

In order to provide agricultural services through drone application, 40% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments or Rs.4 lakhs, whichever less would be available as financial assistance for drone purchase by existing Custom Hiring Centers which are set up by Cooperative Society of Farmers, FPOs and Rural entrepreneurs. The new CHCs or the Hi-tech Hubs that will be established by the Cooperative Societies of Farmers, FPOs and

Rural entrepreneurs with financial assistance from SMAM, RKVY or any other Schemes can also include Drone as one of the machines along with other agricultural machines in the projects of CHCs/Hi-tech Hubs.

Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centers would be eligible to receive 50% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments or up to Rs.5 lakhs in grant support for drone purchases. Rural entrepreneurs should have passed class tenth examination or its equivalent from a recognized Board; and should have remote pilot license from Institute specified by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) or from any authorized remote pilot training organization.

The subsidized purchase of agriculture drones for CHCs/Hi-tech Hubs will make the technology affordable, resulting in their widespread adoption. This would make drones more accessible to the common

man in India and will also significantly encourage domestic drone production.

The drone operations are being permitted by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) through the conditional exemption route. MoCA has published 'Drone Rules 2021' vide GSR No. 589(E) dated 25th August 2021 to regulate the use and operation of Drones in India. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has also brought out Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of Drone application with pesticides for crop protection in agricultural, forestry, non-cropped areas, etc. and for Drone Application in Spraying for Soil and Crop Nutrients. The demonstrating institutions and all the providers of agricultural services through drone application have to comply with these rules/regulations and SOPs.

TECNO launches POP 5 Pro, featuring 6000mAh battery, 3GB RAM with 32GB internal storage & a 6.52 HD+ Display at Launch price of Rs. 8499/-

Chennai, January 22, 2022: TECNO, the global premium smartphone brand, has once again disrupted the market through its latest product offering, POP 5 pro, under its 'POP Series' portfolio.

The smartphone is loaded with segment best features such as 6.52 HD+ dot-notch display, massive 6000 mAh battery, and 8MP AI dual rear camera. The POP 5 pro is powered by HiOS 7.6 based on Android 11 Go. The smartphone comes loaded with 3GB Large RAM with 32GB Internal Storage which is expandable up to 256 GB. In addition, the smartphone packs in various smart features such as IPX2 Splash Resistant, enhanced 14 regional language support, 120Hz touch sampling rate and face unlock — all this in a premium design and vibrant colors.

Today's users have multiple requirements from their smartphone, with speed and quickness being key indispensable aspects. In line with the same, POP 5 Pro has been designed to help users of 'Bharat' stay ahead in whichever tasks they perform, seamlessly and with ease. The POP 5 Pro is a flagship grade smartphone with all-rounder capabilities especially in display, camera, and battery which give an additional edge to the smartphone against its competitors, the POP 5 pro amplifies the value for money quotient to an all



new level. TECNO has further given a surprise to their loyal customers this New Year by offering industry leading features at extremely competitive price.

Commenting on the launch, Arijcet Talapatra, CEO of TRANSSION India, said, 'At TECNO, our vision is to democratize industry leading premium technology by offering them at competitive price points. Being a consumer centric brand, our endeavor is to build technology that resonates with the needs, wants, demands and aspirations of the young and vibrant India. The POP 5 Pro bears testimony to this commitment, where we envisioned to bring in a flagship level smartphone with best in breed features that appeals to the youth. We are confident that with the all-new POP 5 Pro hitting the markets, we will be successful in leaving our indelible mark in the hearts and minds of today's young Bharat.'

Key USPs of POP 5 Pro:

6000mAh mega battery for unstoppable entertainment

8MP Portrait Dual rear Camera for clear images

8MP Dual rear camera with excellent image processing technique enables you to click clear photos every time. Its various modes like AI Portrait, HDR, Filters etc. adds more flavor in your photos. The user can click outstanding selfies either day or night with 5MP selfie camera of Pop 5 Pro which has front flashlight and wide F2.0 aperture.

Trendy and stylish design with attractive colors

The glossy finish with visual light reflection pattern of Pop 5 Pro makes you a fashion icon. Attractive colors with bolder brand logo further enhances the premium appeal of the smartphone.

Other Segment Breaking Features

The Pop 5 Pro is IPX2 Splash Resistant, supports 14 regional languages, and promises a 120Hz Touch Sampling Rate, providing no lag experience to users. The phone offers HiOS 7.6 based on Android 11 Go, the latest android with localized features such as Vault 2.0, Smart Panel 2.0, Kids Mode, Social Turbo, Dark themes, Peek Proof, Voice Charger, Anti-Theft alarm and many more.

The phone features 3GB RAM and 32GB Internal Storage, which can further be expanded up to 256GB via a dedicated SD card slot. A perfect smartphone for the Gen Z in the sub 10K segment.

Pop 5 Pro provides an ultimate battery backup with 6000mAh mega battery. The user can talk to someone for up to 54 hours or enjoy music for up to 120 hours. Additionally, Battery Lab and Ultra Power Saving mode provides very longer battery backup with intelligent optimizations.

6.52 HD+ Immersive Display

With 90% screen to body ratio and 269PPI Pixel Density, 6.52" HD+ display of Pop 5 Pro gives the user a premium segment display experience. Its 480nits max Brightness makes it a better choice even for direct sunlight. With each touch you can feel smoothness of Pop 5 Pro with its 120Hz Touch sampling rate.

3GB Large RAM with 32GB internal storage for quick and seamless operations

Pop 5 Pro is equipped with 3GB RAM for faster speed and lag free operations. Its 32GB Internal storage with up to 256GB expandable support through SD card is sufficient for your daily multimedia needs.

Work From Home will be here for some more time how to handle increasing shoulder and knee pain?

Chennai, January 22, 2022: COVID-19 has changed the way India works, with a vast majority of professionals working from home (WHF) since the pandemic broke out. As the virus mutates and takes new forms, so have businesses needed to adapt new work culture models. Although this change is essential, it's crucial to shift the conversation to the orthopedic problems that poses to individuals. Many work-at-home professionals fall short of the necessary infrastructure that provides seating comfort and maintains their posture for long hours. In addition, many people might even lag in health etiquettes leading to common problems such as the back, shoulder, hip, and joint pain, among others. The lack of an ergonomic setup and adequate physical exercise also adds to the worsening of these conditions. However, with WFH being the new normal, it is crucial to undertake necessary precautions and be mindful of the effective ways to manage them. Do not

hesitate to take initial teleconsultation with a medical expert to get a preliminary understanding of causes for your bone / joint problems. Furthermore, a timely hospital visit can play a pivotal role in preventing these conditions from turning fatal.

Furthermore, one might have to endure several other indirect orthopedic problems. Around 64 percent of Indians don't get adequate exercise. For them, heading to their offices might have been one shallow form of physical activity. It also provides them sunlight exposure that ensures optimum Vitamin D. Vitamin D deficiency is orthopedically unhealthy.

Apart from the health of their bones and joints, other challenges like behavioral health could cascade due to staying indoors and being amiss with socialization and human touch stemming from mental health issues.

Get timely care even during the pandemic:

Knee or shoulder pain

can quickly turn into a medical emergency, and few symptoms one should look out for are:

- Acute shoulder pain on movements.
- Crackling or clinking sounds causing discomfort.
- Shoulder stiffness
- Sleep disruption due to agony.
- Swelling, soreness, or cracklings sounds in knee joints while/after climbing stairs.

In case any of the above symptoms are experienced, head to the emergency room immediately.

Get moving to prevent and relieve WFH pain:

COVID-19 upended all sorts of routines that humans naturally crave on nearly every level. While the fear of COVID stopped people going to gyms during pandemic, a sedentary lifestyle and moving less might lead to weight gain and muscle loss.

- Start walking.
- Stretch your



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improve posture.

- Rotate your neck. It will help improve range of motion and loosen stiff muscles.

- Squeeze your shoulders. Press your shoulder blades towards the middle back.

- Strengthen your core. It supports good breathing and good posture.

- Extend your spine. Stand up and lean back, forming an arch for 15-20 seconds. Yoga is a great option, too.

For patients, virtual care appointments can be conducted for acute pain consultations and preventive care. For more severe or chronic pain, visiting a doctor is recommended.

Hero Electric and Mahindra & Mahindra Announce Strategic Partnership in Electric Mobility

Chennai, January 22, 2022: Hero Electric, India's No.1 EV company and the Mahindra Group today announced their collaborative intent as part of Hero's growth and expansion plans to cater to the ever-growing demand for EVs in the country. The strategic partnership will create multiple synergies to help drive adoption across the country.

As part of the partnership, Mahindra Group will manufacture Hero Electric's most popular electric bikes - Optima & NYX at their Pitampur plant to meet the growing demands of the market. With this collaboration along with the expansion of their existing Ludhiana facility, Hero will be able to meet its demand of manufacturing over 1 million EVs per year by 2022. This will further enable them to drive

adoption of a cleaner mode of transport.

Speaking on the announcement, Mr. Naveen Munjal, MD, Hero Electric said, "Hero Electric has been leading the Electric two-wheeler sector in the country. To further deepen its roots and strengthen the leadership, Hero Electric has announced a partnership with the Mahindra Group, which is leading the EV transition in the electric three and four wheelers space. This coming together of two industry leaders is to further enhance the manufacturing capabilities to meet demand and utilize Mahindra Group's robust supply chain to reach newer centers in the country. The long-term partnership will also see both the companies make the most out of each other's deep knowledge of EVs and drive new product development in the next few years. We look forward to

creating more synergies with them in the near future."

The joint development efforts will also be a key factor in developing the platform approach to help electrification of the Peugeot Motorcycles' portfolio. This is expected to bring significant value to both parties through optimization of costs, timelines, and shared knowledge in this dynamic, fast growing global EV environment.

Sharing his thoughts on the partnership, Rajesh Jejurikar, Executive Director, Auto & Farm Sectors, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "Peugeot Motorcycles has ambitious plans in the EV mobility space in several regions of the world and particularly in Europe. This strategic partnership will bolster these efforts through

joint development and a platform sharing approach leveraging the combined strengths of the two businesses. Our R&D Centre in India will be integral to this arrangement as will the manufacturing facility at Pitampur, that already supplies Peugeot with EV products. I see significant value creation on a mutually beneficial basis and look forward to this partnership delivering on its obvious promise."

The two companies will create a seamless channel of communication to aid knowledge sharing among the R&D teams to build new products and technologies. This will be done keeping the Indian and global markets in mind that will not just further the growth of electric vehicles, but also go on to set benchmarks for faster adoption in the industry.

Shivani acts alongside Vetri in 'Bumper' produced by Vetha Pictures and directed by Selvakumar

Chennai, January 23, 2022: Actor Vetri of '8 Thottakkal' and 'Jivvi' fame is playing the lead role in 'Bumper', a Tamil film based on Kerala bumper lottery. The film being produced by S. Thiagaraja, B.E., on Vetha Pictures banner is being directed by M. Selvakumar, who had earlier worked with filmmakers like Meera Kathiravan and 'Komban' fame Muthaiah. The team has completed the first schedule shoot at Peruvazhi Paathai route from Erumeli to Sabarimala by obtaining necessary permission from

the Kerala government. The next schedule would commence soon and the shoot would be completed in February.

Some important scenes will be canned in Thoothukudi. Meanwhile, 'Bigg Boss' fame Shivani Narayanan has been roped in as the heroine of the movie, while Thangadurai will be seen in an interesting role. Music for 'Bumper' is composed by Govind Vasantha, while lyrics are by Karthik Netha. Says director Selvakumar, "Kerala bumper

lottery forms the backdrop of this film. Vetri is playing the protagonist, and actor Hareesh Peradi is doing a very important character." Cinematographer Vinoth Rathinasamy, who has worked in films such as Nedunalvaadai, MGR Magan, Aalambana and Kadamaiyai Sei is wielding camera for this movie. Editing is by Mu. Kasi Viswanathan. Starring '8 Thottakkal' and 'Jivvi' fame Vetri as protagonist, 'Bumper' is produced by S. Thiagaraja and directed by M. Selvakumar.



boAt, Dixon Technologies form joint venture to Design and Manufacture wireless audio solutions in India

Chennai, January 22, 2022: Imagine Marketing Private Limited, ("Imagine Marketing" or "boAt") India's #1 Earwear brand (as per IDC India Monthly Wearables Tracker, November 2021 release under its flagship brand "boAt") announced a 50-50 joint venture with Dixon Technologies Limited ("Dixon"), an electronic manufacturing services provider in India to manufacture wireless audio products. Both the companies will come together to co-invest in the evolving Indian mobile accessory market, thereby paving the way towards "Make in India" in this category. The association will enable the companies to meet the evolving needs of customers by delivering high-quality and aspirational lifestyle-focused hearable solutions, backed by quality manufacturing and robust R&D.

The joint venture is an important milestone in boAt's

journey to establish a manufacturing base in India. Imagine Marketing owned boAt continues to make significant investments in the areas of design, research and development of products, technology relationships and supply chain and manufacturing. 'boAt Labs', the in-house research and development team comprising 25+ engineers has been instrumental in customizing and designing products specifically for the Indian consumer.

boAt and Dixon are committed to developing and supporting the manufacturing ecosystem in India. boAt's understanding of the audio industry combined with Dixon's manufacturing capabilities will facilitate a vibrant platform for electronics accessories design and manufacturing in India. With a focus on IP, product design and quality assurance, and high-quality manufacturing, the joint venture is aimed at paving the

way towards the "Make in India" initiative.

"We are pleased to commence this joint venture with Dixon, that will enable us to deliver high-quality products at affordable prices to our rapidly emerging online audience of young, digitally-enabled and trend-conscious consumers in India and globally. Combining the capabilities of boAt and Dixon, in the electronic manufacturing services (EMS) space, we aim to build a strong manufacturing base and ecosystem in India. Ramping up domestic production will significantly help in enhancing India's share in the global markets contributing to the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. It will also give an impetus to build in-house design capabilities and to develop lifestyle-oriented products to delight our "boAt heads", said Sameer Mehta, Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer, Imagine Marketing Pvt. Ltd.

Chairman & Managing Director, Dixon Technologies Limited adds, "Over the years, boAt has built strong brand equity, capitalizing on its early-mover advantage with strong growth momentum through their high quality audio devices which are known for their style and efficiency. Through our partnership, we aim to provide boAt with a faster ability to scale up manufacturing in India with our low-cost structure, high quality and superior execution track record. We strive to develop innovative products with boAt for not only the discerning Indian consumers but also for global markets".

boAt Bassheads 100, Bassheads 152, Bassheads 225, Rockerz 255 Pro, Rockerz 235v2, Airdopes 101, Airdopes 381, Airdopes 441, power banks, charging cables and power bricks are among the current products available under boAt's "Make in India" initiative.

Quiklyz to Offer Widest Range of Electric Vehicles (EVs) for Leasing and Subscription in India

Chennai, January 22, 2022: Quiklyz, the vehicle leasing and subscription business vertical of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (Mahindra Finance/MMFSL), today announced that it will offer the widest range of electric vehicles (EVs) for leasing and subscription to potential customers. Quiklyz is a new-age digital born vehicle leasing and subscription platform that offers great convenience, flexibility, and choice to customers across Indian cities.

Quiklyz currently has the largest portfolio of EVs on the subscription platform. The portfolio spans across electric 4W from the leading OEMs offering electric vehicles including Mahindra, Tata Motors, Mercedes-Benz, MG Motors, Audi, and Jaguar as well as electric 3W

load vehicles from Mahindra and Piaggio for e-commerce fleet operators.

Customers will have the flexibility to upgrade their vehicle in 2-3 years keeping in tune with ever increasing technology features in newer EV launches going forward.

The EVs on-road price is currently higher than petrol and diesel vehicles, although the running cost is much lower. The customers intending to purchase EV vehicles through bank loans therefore must pay very high down payment. However, with Quiklyz there is no requirement for down payment, and monthly subscription charges for EV 4W starts from as low as INR 21,399/per month.

Turra Mohammed, SVP & Business Head - Quiklyz mentioned, "As the world is moving on from conventional fuels to

alternative sources of energy for powering transport, electric vehicles are emerging as a popular choice among the planet conscious customers. Quiklyz will continue to focus on EVs and will create an exciting platform for customers to have access to EVs in an affordable and hassle-free manner. All of this will be in keeping with India's commitment to become carbon-neutral by 2070".

Quiklyz is also the leading provider for subscription of Electric 3Ws used in last mile delivery by e-commerce companies. Suman Mishra - CEO Mahindra Electric added, "Leasing & Subscription is becoming an important channel for our Electric 3W specifically in load segment to new age enterprises. We look forward to continuing working with Quiklyz to

provide such innovative financing solutions for our customers".

The company plans to add more EVs in its portfolio, as it aims to create exciting EV subscription products for its customers. Quiklyz's vehicle subscription model ensures that there's no risk or uncertainty about maintenance, battery life, resale value, etc. when it comes to adopting a new technology

The customers can access various offerings and book their dream vehicle on Quiklyz.com. The website will facilitate an extremely simple vehicle booking and delivery journey for the customer. Additionally, customers can also reach out to Quiklyz over email at quiklyz.service@mahindra.com or call at 1800-209-7845 for support.

