

Re-Construction of Pamban Bridge gathers Steam

India's first Vertical lift Railway Sea Bridge connecting the mainland of India with Rameswaram Island

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: The re-construction work on the new 2.05 km Pamban railway bridge which will connect Rameswaram island to the mainland in Tamil Nadu has gathered pace. Till Date, 84% of the construction work has been completed.

Sub structure work has been completed fully which includes 333 Piles and 101 Pile caps. Fabrication of all 99 approach spans

completed, out of which 76 girders have been launched. Fabrication of Vertical Lift Span girder is nearing completion. Assembling Platform for Vertical Lift Span on Rameswaram end of bridge is getting ready. Track laying work is in progress.

This state-of-the-art bridge will be the country's first vertical lift railway sea bridge and is expected to be completed by March 2023.

The sea bridge is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) at a cost of Rs 535 crores. The bridge will allow the Indian Railways to operate trains at a higher speed. It will also increase traffic between the mainland of India and Rameswaram island.

The existing Pamban Rail Bridge, which connects Rameswaram to mainland India, is 105 years old. The original bridge was built in 1914



to connect Mandapam to Mannar. It was the only bridge was built parallel the Rameswaram island link connecting the two to the sea link in 1988. situated in the Gulf of locations until a new road

"Education is the key to the empowerment of every individual, including persons with disabilities" - Droupadi Murmu

Government celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities today

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: The President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu was the Chief Guest at a function to celebrate "International Day of Persons with Disabilities" organized by the DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment here today. She conferred the National Awards on Individuals, Institutions, Organizations and State/District etc. for their outstanding achievements and work done towards empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar, Ministers of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Ramdas Athawale, Ms Pratima Bhaumik were also present in the function.

National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022, were given under following categories:-

Sarvshresth Divyangjan;

Shresth Divyang Bal/Balika;

Sarvshrestha Vyakti - Divyangjano Ke Sashaktikaran Ke Liye Karyarath;

Sarvshrestha Punarvas Peshevar (Rehabilitation Professional/worker) - Divyangatha Ke Kshashtra Mein Karyarath;

Sarvshrestha Anusandhan/Navpravartan / Utpad Vikas - Divyangatha Ke Sashaktikaran Ke Kshashtra Mein;

Divyang Sashaktikaran Hetu Sarvshrestha Sansthan (Private organization, NGO);

Divyang Ke Liye Sarvshrestha Niyoktha (Govt. organisation/PSEs/ Autonomous bodies/Pvt.Sector);

Divyang Ke Liye Sarvshresth Placement Agency - excluding Govt./State Govt./Local Bodies;

Sugama Bharat Abhiyan Ke Karyanvayan/Badhamukt a varan Ke Srijan Mein Sarvshrestha Rajya/UT/Zila;

Sarvshrestha Sugama Yatayat ke Sadahan/Soochana Evam Sanchar Prodyogiki (Govt./Private organization);

Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhinyam/UDID Evam Divyang Sashaktikaran Ke Anya Yojanaon Ke Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshrestha Rajya/UT/Zila;

Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhinyam, 2016 Ke Apne Rajya Mein Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshrestha Rajya Aayukta Divyangjan.

Punarvasan Peshewaron Ke Vikas Mein Sanlangan Sarvshrestha Sangathan Addressing the gathering, the President said that according to an estimate of the United Nations, more than one billion people in the world are persons with disabilities. It means almost every 8th person in the world has a disability in some form or the other. More than two percent of India's population are persons with disabilities. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of all of us to ensure that the persons with disabilities can lead a dignified life independently. It is also our duty to ensure that they get good education, stay safe in their homes and society, have the freedom to choose their career and have equal employment opportunities.

The President said that in Indian culture and tradition, disability has never been considered as a



hindrance in acquiring knowledge and achieving excellence. Often, it has been seen that Divyangjan are gifted with divine-qualities. There are innumerable examples in which our Divyang brothers and sisters have achieved impressive feats in many fields on the strength of their indomitable courage, talent and determination. Given enough opportunities and the right environment, they can excel in every field.

The President said that education is the key to the empowerment of every individual, including persons with disabilities. She stressed for the maximum use of technology in order to remove language related barriers in education and to make education more accessible to children with disabilities. She said that the National Education Policy 2020 also underlines the importance of enabling arrangements for providing equal opportunities for quality education to children with disabilities. She was happy to note that the conversion of NCERT text books for classes I to VI into Indian Sign Language for hearing-impaired children has been done. She said that it

is an important initiative to include hearing-impaired students in the mainstream education process.

The President said that the government is taking several steps for the empowerment of Divyangjan. She said that, according to her, inculcating self-confidence in Divyangjan is very important to empower them. People with disabilities have talents and abilities just like normal people, and sometimes more than them. To make them self-reliant, it is only necessary to instil in them self-confidence. She urged all sections of the society to motivate the Divyangjan to become self-reliant and move ahead in life. She said that when our Divyang brothers and sisters would make their effective contribution by joining the mainstream, then our country would move forward on the path of development at a faster pace.

While addressing the event, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar said that the Divyangjans are valuable human resources and the Prime Minister gives priority to the issues of persons with disabilities in the National Development Agenda.

technology have been included under this campaign. Keeping in view the problems related to accessibility faced by the masses, the Department has developed a Mobile APP to address those problems in a quick and systematic manner as possible.

The Government has set up Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre to promote the empowerment of hearing-impaired persons and to create sign language in India. The Institute, among other functions, is continuously preparing sign language dictionaries that have so far included more than 10,000 words.

In addition, he said that the Government is implementing a unique Disability Identity Card project with the objective of creating a National Database for Persons with Disabilities. So far, over 84 lakh UDID cards have been prepared in 713 districts of all states/UTs.

The Government is also establishing a Centre for Disability Sports Centre at Gwalior and National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. Virendra Kumar also informed about the 'Divya Kala Shakti' which



is being organised by the Ministry to showcase the talent and skills of Divyang youngster and children.

Senior Officers of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities were also present in the function.

Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Secretary, DEPwD and

E-Sevai Maiyam
Star Rainbow Services
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'International Conference Series on Vayu:

'The Vital Life Force' inaugurated by His Excellency, Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Governor of Odisha and Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: A 2-day International Conference Series on Vayu: The Vital Life Force, was inaugurated today by His Excellency, Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, and Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. As a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the conference is one of a series of conferences, which intend to disseminate Indian thought across the globe *v i s - à - v i s* Panchmahabhoot, the five essential elements of creation.

Addressing the inaugural session, Hon'ble Governor said that Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is symbolic of an initiative to give back to the country and world at large, as the world has increasingly become individualistic. He further said that the conference aims to help individuals realize the connection that exists between the universe and humanity, as the universe is based on the spirit of cooperation and coexistence. The Governor noted that the element of Vayu cannot be separated from the other elements of the panchmahabhoot and it is essential to consider them together. He emphasized that the essence of this conference is inner awakening, and appreciated the efforts of the Central Government for protecting the environment.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Yadav expressed his sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha for gracing the inaugural session. He appreciated the participation of students in the



conference and said that it is important to understand the challenges posed by climate change and each one of us has a responsibility towards the country and the planet.

The Minister said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the country has made great strides in tackling air pollution and climate change. This includes increase in renewables capacity and establishment of the International Solar Alliance for the energy sector, promotion of electric vehicles and mandated ethanol blending for vehicular sector, conversion to cleaner fuels in case of industrial sectors, ban on Single Use Plastic, among others.

Speaking about Mission LiFE, i.e., Lifestyle For Environment, a One-Word Movement launched by the Prime Minister in October 2022, he said that emphasis needs to be laid not only on converting waste to wealth, but also on reducing waste generation. While action is being initiated for carbon markets, carbon finance, mitigation and adaptation, sustainable consumption, sustainable production and creating awareness among the people for an environmentally

conscious lifestyle is the way forward.

He hoped that useful inputs would emerge from the technical sessions that would be held during the conference, however, it should be ensured that discussions take into account policy formulation, policy execution, innovative and scientific developments, ethical values and traditional knowledge, as all these elements would be required for putting up an effective fight against climate change.

'National Clean Air City' awards were given to 9 best performing cities in meeting air quality targets and implementation of corrective, preventive and mitigation actions, based on Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2022.

Prize cheques and certificates were given in three categories of cities based on population. In the first category of cities i.e., those having population more than 10 lakh, Lucknow bagged the first prize with a cash reward of Rs. 1.5 crore for reducing average ambient PM10 concentration by 31% from 2019-20 to 2021-22 and scoring higher on actions taken for abating burning of biomass and solid waste. Ms. Sanyukta Bhatia, the Mayor of Lucknow

received the cheque and certificate from His Excellency, Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, and Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav.

In the second category of cities i.e., those having population between 3-10 lakh, Moradabad bagged the first prize with a cash reward of Rs. 75 lakhs by reducing PM10 concentration by 36%. In the third category of cities i.e., those having population less than 3 lakh, Dewas bagged the first prize with a cash reward of Rs. 37.5 lakh. The awards are expected to motivate these cities and other non-attainment cities to amplify their efforts towards achieving a cleaner and greener India.

The inaugural session saw wide participation from senior officials of MoEF&CC, CPCB, Municipal commissioners of non-attainment cities, representatives from State urban development departments, State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees, air quality experts, PSG officials, academicians and students from various universities across India.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India's bio-economy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years under Prime Minister Modi from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$80 billion in 2022



Chennai, Dec 04 2022: Biotech Startups have grown 100 times in the last 8 years from 52 odd startups in 2014 to 5300 plus in 2022

14 international participants like USA, Greece, South Korea, Scotland, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and Vietnam taking part in conference

Investment in Bio-economy increased from Rs 10 Crore in 2014 to Rs 4200 crore in 2022, growth of 400 times creating over 25,000 high skilled jobs: DrJitendra Singh

The Minister informs that Biotech industry crossed one-billion-dollar R&D spend and it almost trebled within a year from 320 million dollars in 2020 to 1.02 billion dollars in 2021

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, DrJitendra Singh said, India's bio-economy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years under Prime Minister Modi from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$80 billion in 2022.

Addressing an "International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology-2022" in Jammu,

DrJitendra Singh said, Biotech Startups have grown 100 times in the last 8 years from 52 odd startups in 2014 to 5300 plus in 2022. He said, 3 Biotech Startups were incorporated every day in 2021 and a total of 1,128 biotech startups were set up in 2021 alone, signaling the rapid growth of the sector in India.

The conference is being organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, School of Biotechnology, Jammu in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM Jammu and The Biotech Research Society of India, from 3rd - 5th December 2022.

There are 14 international participants like USA, Greece, South Korea, Scotland, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and Vietnam and 24 National keynote and invited speakers and around 300 participants from almost every state of India who are presenting their work in the form of Oral and Poster Presentations.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that from a paltry investment of Rs 10 Crore in Bio-economy in 2014, the fund growth saw 400 times hike to Rs 4200 crore in 2022, creating over 25,000 high skilled jobs. He said, number of Bio tech incubators have increased from 6 in 2014 to 75 now, while Biotech products have increased

from 10 products to more than 700 today.

Dwelling on the growth of India Bioeconomy, DrJitendra Singh pointed out that India administered nearly 4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines per day and a total of 1.45 billion doses in 2021. Similarly, we conducted 1.3 million COVID-19 tests each day in 2021 and overall 507 million tests in 2021.

Dr Jitendra Singh also pointed out that Biotech industry crossed one-billion-dollar R&D spend, thanks to Covid economy and it almost trebled within a year from 320 million dollars in 2020 to 1,02 billion dollars in 2021. The Minister said, India will soon enter the league of top-5 countries in Biotech's global ecosystem.

Dr Jitendra Singh quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to point out the five big reasons why India is being considered a land of opportunities in the field of biotech. First-diverse population and diverse climatic zones, Second-India's talented human capital pool, Third-increasing efforts for ease of doing business in India. Fourth- The demand for Bio-Products is increasing continuously in India and fifth- India's Biotech Sector and its track record of success.

Referring to the growing reputation and

profile of Indian professionals on the global stage, DrJitendra Singh said, there is growing trust in the skill and innovation of Indian IT professionals in the World and in this Bio-economy decade, the same will be true for the Bio Professionals of India.

Scientific sessions of the conference have been divided under different themes on Health Sciences, Enzymology and Molecular biology, Synthetic Biology, Material Science and Nanomaterial, Natural Products and Green Chemistry, Environmental Sustainability and Development and Plant & Animal Science.

Noted participants from organizing bodies include Prof. R K Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Prof. Ashok Pandey, Distinguished Scientist Centre for Innovation & Translational Research, CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Lucknow, Shri Nagendra Singh Jambwal, JKAS, Registrar SMVDU, Dr. Indu Bhushan, Asst. Prof., School of Biotechnology, SMVDU and Convener of the Conference, Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head, School of Biotechnology, SMVDU and Organizing secretary of the Conference.

Ministry of Civil Aviation issues guidelines for PLI incentive scheme to support indigenous drone industry

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: For the effective operation and smooth implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has formulated and notified the operational guidelines.

The guidelines have been notified on 29th November 2022 for the information of all the stakeholders and the public. These guidelines inter-alia cover the

following:

- Definitions
- Qualification and Eligibility
- Application and Online Portal
- Project Management Agency (PMA), Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), and Competent Authority

To make India a global hub for the research and development, testing,



manufacturing, and operation of drones under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021 were released to create a growth-oriented regulatory framework for drones.

To facilitate further growth, the Government has approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Drones and Drone Components in India. The Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)

for Drones and Drone Components (hereinafter referred to as 'Scheme') has been notified vide notification No. CG-DL-E-30092021-230076 dated 30/09/2021 in the Gazette of India. The Scheme has come into effect from the date of its Gazette Notification. For the implementation of this scheme during 2022-23 to 2024-25, a corpus of Rs 120 crores has been allocated.

SAIL undertakes CSR on International Day of Persons with Disabilities with distribution of assistive device

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: On the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' on 3rd December, 2022, The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the Maharatna Steel Public Sector, distributed assistive devices to Persons with Disabilities (Divyang jan) across its Plants/Units and Corporate Office at New Delhi. SAIL has engaged Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to undertake this Priority Program



under SAIL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Smt. Soma Mondal, Chairman, SAIL along with other senior officials of the Company was present during the event at New Delhi.

This priority program of SAIL will be

smart phones for visually impaired and hearing aids among others.

Currently, SAIL supports various focused facilities dedicated for Divyang jan at its plant locations viz 'School for Blind, Deaf and Mentally challenged children' and 'Home and Hope' at Rourkela, 'Ashalata Kendra' at Bokaro, 'Handicapped Oriented Education Program' and 'Durgapur Handicapped Happy Home' at Durgapur, and 'Cheshire Home' at Burnpur.

held across several locations in the country, mostly in the areas of operation of SAIL, in a phased manner under 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The Divyang jan are being empowered through assistive aids like tricycle, motorized tricycles, smart canes &

Investors conclave on commercial coal mines auction and opportunities in mining sector held in Bengaluru

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: The Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Mines jointly held the Investors' conclave on commercial coal mines auction and opportunities in mining sector on 3rd December, in Bengaluru where Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi was the Chair, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Somappa Bommai was the Guest of Honour for the event. The occasion was also graced by Shri Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary, Coal, Shri M Nagaraju, Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal; Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines; Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Secretary, Commerce & Industries, Government of Karnataka and Senior Officers of Ministry of Mines. Representatives of many companies, potential investors and members industry associations attended the conclave.

Ministry of Coal has till date concluded five tranches of commercial coal mines auction wherein Ministry has successfully allocated 64 coal mines. Ministry has launched the sixth tranche of commercial coal mine auction on November 03, 2022, wherein 141 coal mines are put on offer including 8 coal mines under 2nd attempt of 5th tranche. This is the largest ever coal block auction till date launched in the country.

Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority, Mr. M. Nagaraju welcomed all the investors and informed the forum about the coal reforms undertaken by Ministry of Coal to improve the attractiveness of the coal auction process and make it more investor friendly. Mr Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines highlighted that after the reforms brought in minerals sector in March 2021, the pace of exploration has increased. Since reforms brought in March 2021, 108 mineral blocks have been auctioned as compared to 108 blocks auctioned in 6 years from 2015 to 2021. Further, auction of 70 blocks is under process in

the country. Further, GSI has handed over more than 200 explored blocks to State Governments for auction. As such, more than 400 blocks are ready for auction in the country.

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi emphasised on the importance of coal in securing energy security for the future of the country. He also assured the investors that the future outlook of the coal is positive, and the ministry is undertaking various reforms for ease of doing business in the coal sector. He stated that the current contribution of the mining sector in the country's GDP is 0.9% and submitted that the Prime Minister has the vision to enhance this contribution to 2.5% by 2030 indicating that there is a huge potential in the mining sector and the investors are invited to participate in this opportunity. Union Minister Sh Joshi also stated that the Government has made several reforms in mineral sector such as removing the distinction between captive and non-captive mines, transfer of clearances of the previous lessee to the successful bidder, etc. The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Somappa Bommai pointed out the importance of sustainable mining for maintaining balanced eco system and better future of the country. He stated that as per the Indian belief, whole cosmos is made of 5 elements. We are also made of these 5 elements. Future of mankind is dependent on how best we utilise these elements. Mother Earth is one of the elements which also gives us rich mineral resources. We are required to achieve sustainable mining. We have to adopt best mining culture to bring productivity and sustainability. He emphasised that sustainable production of minerals will meet the various needs of many sectors and fulfil the vision of the Prime Minister. He stressed that Karnataka has high quality iron ore and the State is guided by the Supreme Court and NGT guidelines in allocation and mining of iron ore mines. Karnataka is expected to be largest manufacturer of Steel in the Country and it will be

fuelled by the high grade iron ore mines of the State. He added that the country needs to explore adoption of best technology in the sector. The State also has rich reserves of tungsten, nickel, cobalt and gold which are in huge demand.

Mr. Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary, Ministry of Coal in his address pointed out that the requirement of various sectors in the country depends heavily on power and for that coal needs to be commercially explored. He reiterated the commitment of Ministry of Coal in supporting the coal industry and informed that Ministry of Coal is there to extend any help required by the prospective bidders.

Mr. M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal delivered a presentation on the various reforms taken up in the coal sector such as introduction of commercial coal mining, liberalisation of approvals and promotion of coal gasification as means of sustainable development.

Mr. Chiranjib Patra, GM, CMPDIL gave a presentation on the technical details of the coal blocks being offered in the largest ever auction process, also presented the investment opportunities in the MDO sector and Mr. Shubham Goel, Vice President, SBI Capital Markets delivered a presentation on the terms and conditions of the auction process and investors perspective on commercial coal mining in the country.

Key features of the auction process include reduction in upfront amount and bid security amount, permission to relinquish part of the coal mine in case of partially explored coal mines, introduction of National Coal Index and National Lignite Index, ease of participation with no entry barriers, full flexibility in coal utilisation, optimized payment structures, efficiency promotion through incentives for early production and use of clean coal technology.

The sale of tender document commenced on November 03, 2022. Details of the mines, auction terms, timelines etc. can be accessed on MSTC auction platform. The auction shall be held

online through a transparent 2 stage process, on the basis of Percentage Revenue Share.

SBI Capital Markets Limited, the sole Transaction Advisor to Ministry of Coal for the commercial coal mine auctions, is assisting the Ministry of Coal in conduct of the auction.

Dr. Veena Kumari Dermal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines gave a brief presentation on reforms in mineral sector which has brought in ease of doing business and transparency that helped in increase in mineral production and revenue generation to States. She has informed about the major mining reforms that has been brought in MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 that mandates grant of mineral concession through e-auction to improve transparency and setting up of DMF and contribution to NMET. She also informed about the major reforms brought through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2021, that, inter-alia, includes auction of mineral blocks without end use restrictions and allowed transfer of all ML & CL without any charges and transfer of valid clearances. Further, she has informed that so far, total 216 major mineral blocks including 168 MLs and 48 CL have been auctioned in 10 States, since introduction of auction regime in 2015. Currently, 68 NITs for different minerals are at different stages of auction in various states. She further added that more than 381 potential blocks have been identified to be auction in next few years.

Shri Pankaj Pandey, Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Karnataka gave presentation on the ongoing mineral blocks auctions in Karnataka and steps taken by the State Government in simplifying the application and approval process for the investors. State Govt. has auctioned 34 mineral blocks (5 CL and 29 ML), second highest after Odisha which has auctioned 40 blocks. Out of 34 auctioned blocks, 11 have started production. Further, 25 potential blocks have been identified that will be auctioned shortly.

The FEDERATION OF MOTORSPORTS CLUBS OF INDIA (FMSCI) grants exclusive commercial rights to SUPERCROSS INDIA PVT LTD (SXI) to operate and promote a new SUPERCROSS RACING LEAGUE IN INDIA

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: There is an exciting news in store for Motorsports, biking enthusiasts, and the Automobile sector in India.

Supercross India Pvt Ltd (SXI) under the aegis of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), the governing body of motorsports in India recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Today officially announced the handing over of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the exclusive commercial rights to launch the World's First of its kind Supercross Racing League which will be titled as the "INDIAN SUPERCROSS RACING LEAGUE" ISRL

The MoU was handed over by Mr. Gautam Shantappa, Vice-President and Mr. Sujith Kumar - Chairman of Supercross Racing Commission of the FMSCI to the promoters of the league in a press conference held in Pune.

The Sport of Supercross



Supercross (SX) is a Motorcycle racing sport involving specialized high performance off-road motorcycles with steep jumps and obstacles held on dirt tracks. The sport is immensely popular in the US, Europe and Australia and inherently attracts the younger population. The scale is highlighted by the fact that the current estimated Global Motorsports market is USD 5 bn and expected to grow at a 6% CAGR to USD 7.5 bn by 2027 having seen significant investments globally.

Supercross as a sport in India shall attract large audiences across a young, tech savvy demographic. With a young population, rising disposable income and the adrenaline-inducing nature of adventure sports, the market is ready for a first of its kind, high intensity

pulsating sport in the country. The new and aspiring Indian loves the thrill of adventure and the excitement of Sports, Supercross will provide Indians with a perfect mixture of both.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Gautam Shantappa, Vice-President, Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) said

"The federation fully backs the SXI team and firmly believes that they would take the sport forward and elevate it to a new level. As the vice-president, I am confident that SXI and the FMSCI will work as a team and would make the league a huge success."

Mr. Sujith Kumar, Chairman of Supercross/Motocross/2W Racing Commission, Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) said

"I believe that with younger organizers coming into the sport the future looks bright. I would like to state that it's a matter of great happiness to see X-Racers coming back to the sport playing different roles. The federation fully backs the SXI team and firmly believes that they would take the sport forward and elevate it to a new level. I am proud to say that we in India have the first Franchise based Supercross League in the world.

Sharing his views on the league, Mr. Eeshan Lokhande, Director, Supercross India,

"We are really excited to host the league and we thank the entire team at the FMSCI for all the support. The League will pave the way for huge development in motorsports and especially Supercross in India. We are confident that the league, will present a major sporting spectacle in India, entertaining the Indian audiences. We plan to put India on the Supercross map of the world, with the vision that Indian riders be on the podium of the Global Supercross races in the future."

The world looks to New India for Tech & Innovation leadership: MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar today said that New India under PM Shri Narendra Modi has changed the discourse completely from being a country saddled in scams and red tape to one that the world looks up to for both Technology and Innovation leadership.

MoS Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar addressing students at the Jyothi Engineering College, Thrissur, Kerala

Addressing students at the Jyothi Engineering College in Thrissur, Kerala, the Minister said, "Technology and digitalisation are playing a significant role in shaping of the economies, the trades across the world and India is already taking the lead in that direction and coming decade will be India's Techade full of opportunities for the young Indians."

The Minister inaugurated a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics in the campus and expressed hope that it will encourage young Indians to venture into innovation and applications of AI and robotics in different fields.



MoS Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar addressing students at the Jyothi Engineering College, Thrissur, Kerala

The Minister said there is already a wave of opportunities for innovation and startups in India and the Government looks up to students, entrepreneurs and startups from across the country to grab these opportunities and help India become the trusted tech partner of the world.

MoS Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar visiting his first school St. Paul's, Kuriachira, Thrissur, Kerala

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who reached Thrissur earlier today, visited his first

school St. Paul's, Kuriachira that he had joined as a five-year-old.

He was given a ceremonial welcome with the school band presenting a march. He was happy to meet the students, teachers and caregivers at the school. He was shown his admission records that dated 1969—meticulously preserved by the school. Sister Felicita, sister of his then School Headmistress, Sister Clarence presented him a picture of Sister Clarence as memorabilia.

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar meeting Sister Felicita, sister of his then School Headmistress, Sister Clarence, at his first

school St. Paul's, Kuriachira, Thrissur, Kerala

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar later went to the Senior Secondary wing of the school and announced setting up of an Atal Tinkering Lab. Speaking to students, he urged them to be innovative and enterprising, while working for their academic credits in school. He hoped the ATL will usher in a culture of innovation and encourage the students to break new grounds.

Later, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar went to Cheruthuruthy, where he was felicitated by the eminent personalities and business leaders from the region.

Minister Mathiventhan said at the opening ceremony of A.I.M.S Aesthetic Training institute that everyone is taking more interest in skincare is a healthy thing and it will give positive energy

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: AIMS Aesthetic Training institute was inaugurated by Minister of Tourism Mathiventhan, Director of Training institute Vasant Rajaguru and others at a private hotel in Chamiers Road, Chennai.

Later, speaking on the stage, he said that he thinks that starting an Aesthetic Training Institute as a doctor is a good initiative. He said that until a few years ago, no one paid much attention to skin care and said that during his college days, only a couple of girls would wear lipstick. Now everyone gives more importance to make-up and it gives a positive impression. He said that this training center which teaches about skin care is a good initiative.

Vasanth Rajaguru,



Director of the training center who later met with the media, said that skin care, acne treatments, scar removal, unwanted hair removal, body contouring and aesthetic surgeries will be provided at the AIMS training center at international standards. And while there are many different approaches to skin care, it will give trainee

doctors an added edge as they provide training on the best possible treatment internationally.

An institute exclusively for doctors to get trained in aesthetic side of clinical practice. From understanding skin anatomy to learning and practising various globally practiced treatment procedures to address pressing skin issues like acne, scars,

unwanted hair removal, body sculpting, surgical aesthetics, AIMS is a one stop learning centre to learn as well as practice internationally recognised treatments and procedures.

Many Cinema celebrities including actresses Athulyaravi, Vidhyuraman, Darshakupta and producer Hema Rukmini attended the event.

Air India resumes its most popular Bengaluru & San Francisco non-stop service strengthening its network from India to the USA

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: Air India, India's leading airline and a Star Alliance member, in line with its vision to strengthen and expand its global footprint is resuming its non-stop flight connecting Bengaluru to San Francisco. This will connect the world's two tech hubs – the original Silicon Valley and the Silicon Valley of India. The flight will operate thrice a week on Fridays, Sundays and Wednesdays with the Boeing 777-200LR

aircraft

The first flight AI 175 will leave Bengaluru at 1420 hrs. (Local Time/LT) on 2nd December, 2022, to arrive in San Francisco at 1700 hrs. (LT) on the same day. The first return flight AI 176 will leave San Francisco on 2nd Dec, 2022 at 2100 hrs.(LT) to arrive at Bengaluru on 4th Dec, 2022 at 0425 hrs.(LT)+2.

The direct distance between Bengaluru and San Francisco is 13,993

kms approx. and the cities are diametrically at opposite ends of the world with a time zone change of approx. 13.5 hours. The total flight time on this route will be of more than 17 hours depending on the wind speed on that particular day. The route for this flight will be the safest, fastest and most economical.

This will take Air India's India-US frequency to 37 non-stop flights per week. At present, Air India operates non-stop

flights from Delhi to New York, Newark, Washington DC, San Francisco and Chicago and from Mumbai to Newark. Air India is set to spread its wings further in the United States with the commencement of its first-ever non-stop service between Mumbai and San Francisco and to New York.

For more details please visit www.airindia.in Air India booking offices or your travel agent.

Tata AIA Life Certified as a Great Place to Work®, Enhancing Best Employer Reputation

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA) has earned the Great Place to Work® Certification, a hallmark of Best Workplaces in the country. This recognition is conferred by the Great Place to Work® Institute, based on a rigorous work culture assessment process. The recognition requires 70% or more of a company's employees to rate it as a great workplace and is considered among the most prestigious achievements for a people-centric organisation.

A four-step process is used to conduct the Certification process.

Ø Trust Index is the first step, which consists of an employee survey.

Ø Culture Audit that evaluates the People Practices of the

organization through a detailed assessment

Ø Qualifying Criteria – Following the assessment, The Institute determines if the organization meets the criteria for Qualification

Ø Actionable Insights – In the last phase, the organization gets to build a winning people strategy.

Earlier this year, Tata AIA was recognized as one of India's Best Employers for 2022, according to Kincentric's premium assessment. The programme identifies organisations that demonstrate outstanding people practices and workplace excellence. Tata AIA Life won the accolade for the sixth consecutive year and was the only life insurer in India to have been chosen

among 15 other organisations.

Speaking on this occasion, Kristyl Pais Bhesania, President and Chief Human Resource Officer, said, "Research suggests that employees who are happy with their employers and who feel their employers provide good career opportunities are more likely to stay with their organisations and contribute more. At Tata AIA Life, we strongly believe that our people are our greatest asset, and we have established a high-performance work culture that fosters a high level of engagement among our teams. It is an honour to be named a Kincentric Best Employer and to earn Great Place to Work® certification, both of which demonstrate our dedication to our

employees."

Tata AIA has always placed employee wellbeing at the forefront of its priorities. The Company implements several initiatives through the year to ensure that its workforce is always engaged, happy, and motivated. These include birthday and anniversary leave, block leaves, special events for family members, recognition for new talent, consistent performers, long service tenure employees. Further, the company has policies around No call/ meeting hours/days (especially weekend) etc. The company endeavors to keep expanding its people friendly practices as it moves forward in its journey as a preferred employer.

Advanced Grohair Clinic inaugurated by MLA Joseph Samuel, Actor premji Amaren, Saran Vel, Kavitha & Ravikumar at Ambattur

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: Advanced Grohair Clinic, has come up with its 10th branch in Ambattur to support the acceleration in consumer demand.

The Clinic is a leading hair regrowth brand, placing a strong impetus on high-quality service, technological innovation, and affordable wellness hair regrowth by treatments.

They offer a complete US-FDA-approved and Advanced solution for hair loss and regrowth with both clinical as well as non-clinical treatments like Percutaneous FUE Hair Transplant, PRP Pro+, LASER Hair Therapy, Advanced Grohair Cosmetic System and much more.

The clinic is well equipped with Patented High-End Machineries administered by world-



class experts in the field of Aesthetic Medicine.

The new branch was Inaugurated by Joseph Samuel MLA – Ambattur and Premji Amaren – Actor accompanied by Founder & Managing Director, Advanced Grohair Clinic - Saran Vel J in the presence of franchise owners

Kavitha & Ravikumar and other staff members of the Clinic.

Advanced Grohair clinic also offers some premium aesthetic treatments like microblading, lip micropigmentation, eyelash lift & extensions, LASER therapies, and much more with avant-garde

techniques that make them achieve astonishing results.

Advanced Grohair Clinic located at Ist Floor New No.122/124/1, Pommy's Building, Red Hills Main Road, Vijayalakshimpuram, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053. Phone No. 74092 56789

"G20 India makes it to the International Sand Art Festival in Konark, Odisha

World Renowned Sand Artist & Padma Shri Awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik puts on display magnificent logo of India's G20 Presidency

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: On the day that India takes over the G20 Presidency from Indonesia, visitors to the International Sand Art Festival in Konark were treated to a magnificent display of the Indian Presidency's Logo and Theme on Chandrabhaga beach in Odisha.

India assumes the yearlong Presidency of the G20 on the 1st of December and will hold over 200 meetings across 50+ cities in India with foreign delegations from the G20 countries participating in these meetings in different parts of India. The Hon'ble Prime Minister declared that India's G20 Presidency will work to



promote a universal sense of one-ness rooted in the Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or One World, One Family, One Future.

Channelling the immense pride felt by fellow Indians across the country as India assumes the Presidency of the G20, world renowned sand artist

Sudarsan Pattnaik along with his students spent over 2 days in making the G20 Logo & in sand.

Speaking to reporters present at the International Sand Art Festival, Mr. Pattnaik said that India's Logo and Theme represent the ancient knowledge and values that have passed down through millennia

with the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or the world is one family. "This is something that all of us in India already know, now we have a chance to share that ancient wisdom with the rest of the world through the G20 platform."

Organised by the Government of Odisha every year from the 1st to the 5th of December, the International Sand Art Festival in Konark has grown every year with several foreign artists too participating in 2022. Over 5 lakh visitors are expected to visit the Sand Art Festival in the temple city of Konark on Chandrabhaga beach over the 5 days.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India registers 38% growth, Closes November'22 with 373,221-unit sales

Chennai, Dec 04 2022: Backed by a successful festival season, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for November 2022.

The company's total sales for the month of November'22 stood at 373,221. This includes domestic sales of 353,540 units and 19,681 units in exports.

Noteworthy, the domestic sales for the month registered 38% growth over last year same period which stood at units 256,174.

Commenting on Honda's growth in November, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "After a

successful festival season, HMSI continues to witness consistent demand in the market. There is now a growing need of mobility in urban India as offices, institutions open-up and more and more people venture out. The industry has been witnessing steady growth momentum and we are on a constant lookout to fulfil the needs of our customers. With the intent to delight our customers, we are constantly expanding our last mile presence with the inauguration of new outlets across India."

Key Highlights of November 2022:

Ø Corporate: Winning the love & trust of its customers rapidly over the years in India's

most populated state of Uttar Pradesh, HMSI announced that its cumulative two-wheeler sales crossed the 40 lac units' mark in the state.

Ø Honda BigWing Network Expansion: Honda further elevated the #GoRidin spirit with the inauguration of BigWing Outlets in Bangalore (Karnataka) and Hubbali (Karnataka).

Ø Road Safety: HMSI celebrated 8th anniversary of its Traffic Training Park in Delhi, educating more than 1.70 lac people of Delhi on road safety since inception. Parallely, HMSI organized awareness camps in Guwahati (Assam), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhilwara (Rajasthan) and

Kurukshetra (Haryana).

Ø Motorsports: Making a significant mark on international soil, the IDEMITSU Honda Racing India - a solo Indian team in FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) finished the 2022 season on a positive note. India's ace rider Rajiv Sethu finished the final race of Asia Production 250cc (AP250cc) class of ARRC in top 10. Competing fiercely with the international riders, Senthil Kumar finished today's race at 14th position, achieving 2 points. A promising weekend in Valencia saw the Repsol Honda Team walk away unrewarded as both riders fell. Both Marc Marquez and Pol Espargaro could not finish the race.