

# President of India graces Mahashivaratri celebrations at Isha Yoga Center Coimbatore

## Lord Shiva's destructive drive is also creative, leading to the regeneration and rejuvenation of the cosmos: President Murmu

Coimbatore, Feb 18 2023: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the Mahashivaratri Celebrations, organised by the Isha Foundation, at the Isha Yoga Center, Coimbatore this evening (February 18, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Lord Shiva is a deity for all, as he appears in his various manifestations matching each of us. He is the first yogi, the Adiyogi, and he also the first jnani who, for example, is said to have inspired Panini's grammar system, one of the tallest intellectual achievements of humankind.

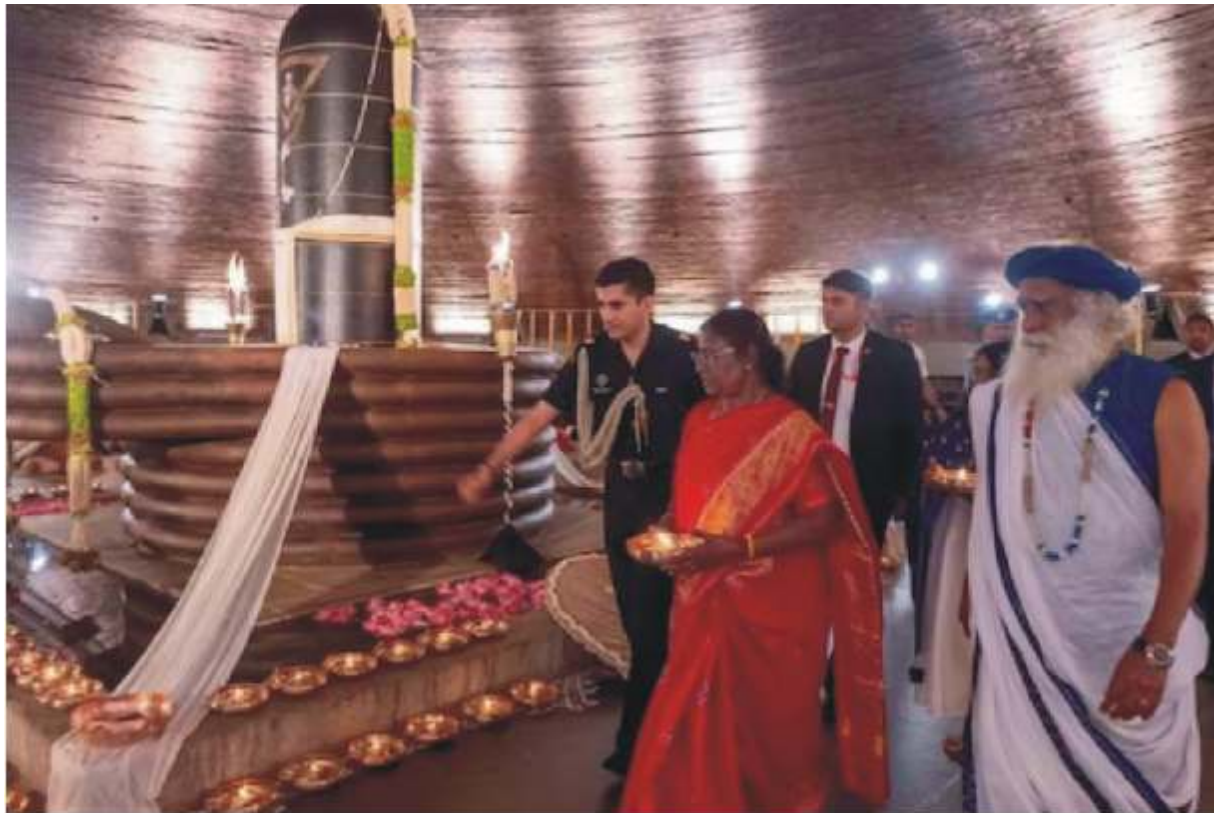
The President said that Lord Shiva is a benevolent deity, and yet in countless myths he is also depicted the ultimate fearsome deity, as revealed in another name for him, 'Rudra'. This way, he is the symbol of both kinds of energies, creative and destructive. He, indeed, transcends such pairs of opposites, because his destructive drive is also creative, leading to the regeneration and rejuvenation of the cosmos.

The President said Lord Shiva appears in the form of ardh-narishwar also, half male and half female. It points to the masculine and feminine sides of every human being and is an expression of the ideal of balancing the two.

The President said that Mahashivaratri marks the

end of winter and beginning of sunny days in most parts of India. Mahashivaratri thus also marks the end of darkness – the darkness of ignorance, and opens the path to enlightenment. For those in search of higher ideals of life, today is an especially significant occasion. She said that today, the world remains as torn in strife as ever, but it is also facing an unprecedented ecological crisis. The need for a balanced and compassionate life, in harmony with Mother Nature and all its children, was never felt so pressing as it does today. May this Mahashivaratri dispel darkness inside us and lead us all to a more fulfilling and flourishing life.

Om Namah Shivay! I bow to all that is 'shiva', which means 'shubha', all that is auspicious, gracious, benevolent in this universe. I feel specially blessed today. Earlier in the day, I had the good fortune of having Darshan of Meenakshi Amman. I prayed before the Mother Goddess for the well-being of all. I feel blessed to be here on the holy occasion of Mahashivaratri in the presence of Adiyogi. I am sure you too, like me, are feeling the special vibrations of this ambience. We are sensing a form of energy flowing through us that makes the whole cosmos alive. It was only last week that I was in Varanasi, the first of all the abodes of Shiva, and I had a darshan of various manifestations of



the lord, in the Kashi Vishwanath temple and in the Kal Bhairav temple. In the end of December, I had the good fortune of praying before Mallikarjuna Swami at Srisailem. And now I am here, in the foothills of Velliangiri Hills, which is the Dakshin Kailash, another abode of Swayambhu Lord Shiva. We refer to Lord Shiva as father, as 'Shiv Baba'. Yet, he also appears in the form of ardh-narishwar, half male and half female. It points to the masculine and feminine sides of every human being and is an expression of the ideal of balancing the two. What we call gender balance today comes alive so beautifully in that image! Sometimes I wonder if Shiva is the sum total of all our religious feeling and spiritual

thinking. Consider the various paths to the ultimate realisation and liberation, which can also be called mukti, moksha or nirvana. Various traditions around the world speak of Page 2 of 4 the path of devotion or bhakti, the path of wisdom of jnana, the path of yoga and so on. And Lord Shiva is the only one who is perceived to be the guiding light on any of these paths. Whether a seeker is a devotee of a personal god or a jnani seeking the Absolute or a yogi striving for the spiritual union, taking refuge in Lord Shiva is sure to lead to the objective.

In the same way, Lord Shiva is a deity for all, as he appears in his various manifestations matching each of us. He is a householder, a family

man, like most of us. But he is also a sanyasi who has renounced everything and dwells in cremation grounds or atop mountains. He is the first yogi, the Adiyogi, and he also the first jnani who, for example, is said to have inspired Panini's grammar system, one of the tallest intellectual achievements of humankind. Lord Shiva, as the name implies, is a benevolent deity, and yet in countless myths he is also depicted the ultimate fearsome deity, as revealed in another name for him, 'Rudra'. This might be why both Lord Rama and Ravana worshipped him. This way, he is the symbol of both kinds of energies, creative and destructive. He, indeed, transcends such pairs of opposites, because his destructive

drive is also creative, leading to the regeneration and rejuvenation of the cosmos. It is this aspect of Shiva's personality that comes alive in the Tandav dance, which he also performed on the hill not far from here. What can we mortals do before a God like this, but to be in awe, and bow down in worship? That is what I meant, when I began this address with the mantra 'Om Namah Shivay'. Adi Shankaracharya wanted us to know and realise the Eternal Shiva within all of us. He says, in his melodious Nirvan Shatakam.

I have no fear of death, no caste or creed, I have no father, no mother, for I was never born, I am not a relative, nor a friend, nor a teacher nor a student, I am the form of consciousness and bliss, I am the eternal

Shiva... To the non-believer, all of this may sound like a matter of belief and myth. However, it is astounding that modern science has also begun to unravel some of the secrets of Shiva. In the early 20th century, as physics broke new ground and scientists made images of the movement of sub-atomic particles, they found tracing lines very similar to the movement of a dancing Shiva or Nataraja as depicted in traditional sculptures. What I am stating is, of course, a well-known theory. It shows that the ancient seers in their deep meditation perceived the true reality of the universe and expressed it their own language and symbols. Lord Shiva symbolises nothing but that Absolute. That is why many learned non-believers too remain astonished by Lord Shiva. Ram Manohar Lohia, a staunch socialist, was an agnostic too, but he understood this supreme phenomenon called Lord Shiva very well. In an essay titled 'Ram and Krishna and Shiva', he wrote in 1956 [and I quote:] "While Ram and Krishna led human lives, Shiva was without birth and is without end. Like God he is infinite, but, unlike God, his life consists of events in time and many landmarks and he is, therefore, more non-dimensional than God. He is perhaps the only non-dimensional myth or concept known to man. There is certainly none other that can reach him in this respect." [Unquote]

Fellow seekers, Today is Mahashivaratri, which in most parts of India marks the end of winter and beginning of sunny days. Mahashivaratri thus also Page 4 of 4 marks the end of darkness – the darkness of ignorance, and opens the path to enlightenment. For those in search of higher ideals of life, today is an especially significant occasion. We also happen to be in the presence of a renowned rishi of modern times, Sadhguruji, who has done more than most to propagate the teachings of our past masters in all corners of the world. Countless people, especially young, from India and abroad have found in him the inspiration to make spiritual progress. Moreover, Sadhguruji has been teaching us about our social responsibility too, through his words as well as action. Today, the world remains as torn in strife as ever, but it is also facing an unprecedented ecological crisis. The need for a balanced and compassionate life, in harmony with Mother Nature and all its children, was never felt so pressing as it does today. May this Mahashivaratri dispel darkness inside us and lead us all to a more fulfilling and flourishing life. I wish you a happy journey on this path, as the saying goes:

May the spiritual light of Mahashivaratri brighten our paths every single day in our lives. Thank you, Namaste! Jai Hind!

# WHO launches funding appeal for earthquake response in Türkiye and Syrian Arab Republic

Geneva., Feb 18 2023: The World Health Organization has launched an updated

flash appeal for US\$ 84.5 million to respond to health needs after the earthquake in both

Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The flash appeal outlines the health

situation in the two countries following this humanitarian disaster, the main threats to

health, the WHO response since the earthquakes hit and priorities for addressing the health impacts in both countries. Details of WHO's response priorities to support the populations affected are provided, together with

the funding requirements to address the immediate and urgent health needs by area and overall. These needs continue to evolve based on ongoing damage assessments.

WHO's response includes dispatch of life-

saving medicines and other medical supplies; the activation of its Emergency Medical Teams Network to provide essential health services and supplies to care for those in need; liaison with disease surveillance and rapid

response teams to ensure ongoing surveillance and detection of water-borne, infectious and respiratory diseases, as well as preparedness for any outbreak; and support for the mental health and psychosocial response.



**E-Sevai Maiyam**  
**Star Rainbow Services**  
 11, SOUTH PERUMAL KOIL STREET, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI - 600 026.  
**8148231942 / 8144337349**  
**PATTA | LEGAL HEIR | PAN | PASSPORT | AADHAAR**  
**ALL ONLINE SERVICES**

## The Rise of Kiran Abbavaram from Boy Next Door to Promising Talent in TFI

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: Young and promising talent Kiran Abbavaram who is attracting the youth with his new-age stories is coming with interesting films. Now the actor has come up with a thrilling family film Vinaro Bhagyamu Vishnu Katha under prestigious GA2 pictures banner. The film has hit the screens on February 18 as Maha Shivaratri special. It is a dream of any young and upcoming hero to work under big production houses, because, it will help them in upping their market and take them to a larger crowd and within short time Kiran Abbavaram grabbed very big chances that'll take him to the next league. Known for his Rayalaseema slang, good looks and energetic acting in films like 'Raja



Vaaru Rani Gaaru', 'SR Kalyana Mandapam', 'Sebastian' and 'Sammathame', this youngster's career has been on the rise right from his debut. Continuing the same, he is busy with back to back projects like Meter, Rules Ranjan with big production houses like Mythri Movie Makers, UV Creations respectively. And more are in queue for his upcoming flicks. Top it all, many industry

and family audiences for his guy next door personality and genuine attempts in his career. Now his new film Vinaro Bhagyamu Vishnu Katha is another genuine attempt that has been catching everyone's attention. Among audiences and trade circles, this film has received more buzz than other February releases. With the exciting trailer, the makers hyped the audience. The actor needed one hit to enter the Star league and everyone believes that has happened VBVK, which has generated positive vibe immediately after its release. The actor's confidence on the film's result and the interesting concept that they have introduced has yielded results.

biggies are supporting him just because of his stupendous acting skills. This determined actor started his career with a simple film but things took a sudden turn. Now top production houses are betting big by spending extravagantly on Kiran Abbavaram films. Also his impeccable looks over time, is scoring a lot of applause. Despite the result of his last film, he has his place strong among the youngsters

## Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurates 'SemiconIndia Conference of Electronics Manufacturing Supply Chain Ecosystem'

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: The Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurated the 'SemiconIndia Conference of Electronics Manufacturing Supply Chain Ecosystem', here today. The Secretary, MeitY, Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma; Shri Ajit Manocha, President SEMI and Member, Advisory Board of ISM, Shri Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Joint Secretary, MeitY & CEO ISM, other senior officials from MeitY, state governments, delegates from global semiconductor industry, potential semicon investors and academicians also participated in the event.



Shri Ashwini Vaishnav addressing at SemiconIndia Conference

Shri Ashwini Vaishnav while addressing all the delegates highlighted the success achieved in telecom manufacturing and Vande Bharat development enabled by government. Today government is 'willing to walk the talk' and its "Say-do" ratio is very high with readiness to receive feedback and sustain industry efforts for a long period of time. He highlighted 'your success, is our success and success of global semiconductor industry'.

The Secretary, MeitY, Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma welcomed all the

dignitaries and expressed happiness that such a conference is being organized by ISM. He highlighted that 'electronics manufacturing is not sustainable without development of semiconductor ecosystem in India which will drive overall economic growth in automotive, power, telecom, electronics etc.

Shri Manocha in his keynote address stated that India's readiness for semiconductor ecosystem is excellent and he would rate India's readiness as 9 out of 10. He presented a global overview of semicon industry and appreciated the efforts taken by government for development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India.

Joint Secretary, MeitY, Shri Amitesh Kumar Sinha provided the overview of the 'SemiconIndia Program for building a sustainable, trusted and reliable semiconductor and electronics manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

As India celebrates 'Azadika Amrit Mahotsav' and assumed the 'G20 Presidency', ISM endeavours to reinforce the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in semiconductor manufacturing towards becoming self-reliant and bringing India on semiconductor map of the world. Fulfilling the vision of the Prime Minister to make India the world's reliable partner in global supply chains, ISM has taken the initiative to organize this conference to encourage and ensure the establishment of semiconductor fabs and other facility with requisite manufacturing capabilities and sustainability strategies.

Some of the prominent sessions during the conference included i) Panel discussion on the existing semiconductor ecosystem in India with participants from SCL, GAETEC and STARC; ii) Presentation on facilitating the development of semiconductor ecosystem by Mark Patel, Sr. Partner, McKinsey; iii) Panel

discussion regarding the fab construction and availability of requisite chemicals, gasses with participation from Micron, Jacobs, L&T, PDF Solutions and Linde; iv) Presentation on vision for skilled workforce generation by Ms. Jaya Jagdish, SVP, AMD India; v) Panel discussion regarding the industry readiness, challenges for materials and equipment with panellists from Applied Materials, Lam Research, KLA, e-fab, TOK and Merck; vi) Panel Discussion regarding Policies and readiness of State Governments for semiconductor ecosystem with Panellists from State Governments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Gujarat; vii) Panel discussion regarding the concerns of the industry, key asks for the establishment of manufacturing facilities with panellists from Global Foundries, Texas Instrument, ST Microelectronics, IBM, Western Digital and JSW steel.

## Performance of RPF during the month of January 2022 Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel save 42 people in January 2022 as part of "Mission Jeevan Raksha"

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: Railway Protection Force (RPF) is entrusted with the responsibility of security of railway property, passenger area, passengers and matters connected therewith. RPF personnel have been rendering outstanding service for the cause of security of railways and railway passengers. They also provide help to passengers in need and rescue of women and children in need of care and protection. To provide impetus to various activities of the force personnel which they are performing even beyond their assigned duties, it has been decided to launch several operations under different names starting from January 2022.

RPF has been saving lives of persons in danger of coming under the wheels of running trains at various railway stations and railway area night and day going beyond their call of duty risking their own lives. Now the activity has been undertaken in mission mode under "Mission Jeevan Raksha". RPF personnel saved 42 persons, 20 males and 22 ladies under this mission during January 2022.

RPF has played important role in reuniting the children in need of care and protection, lost/separated from their family or escaped from their homes due to several reasons. They are vulnerable for getting exploited and trafficked, if not secured in time. The force personnel were motivated towards this noble cause and an all India program under the code name "Operation

Nanhe Fariste" was launched. During the month of January 2022, 1045 Children (701 Boys+344 Girls) in need of care & protection who came in contact with Indian Railways were rescued with the follow up action in coordination with the NGOs. Presently Child Help Desks are functional at 132 railway station across the Indian railways.

To provide better security to the women passengers several new initiatives were taken under the code name "Mahila Suraksha". During the month of Jan. 2022, RPF has deployed "Meri Saheli" teams at major railway stations with an objective to provide security to lady passengers specially travelling alone and vulnerable to crime and covered approx 13000 nos of trains all over India for this purpose.

## 759 Children rescued by RPF Chennai Division in 2022

Railway Protection Force (RPF) undertake the Nobel cause of identifying and rescuing children in need of care of protection who are lost/separated from their family due to various reason. Ministry of Railway issued a Standard Operating Procedure for better care and protection of children in distress in contact with railways in December 2021, which was operationalized in 2022. In accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure presently Child Help Desks (CHDs) are operational at Railway stations. RPF has played an important role in reuniting the children lost/separated from their family due to various reasons.

In this regard an intensive drive has been launched on Indian Railways to rescue children. 759 children's (Boys-639, Girls-120) have been rescued during the year 2022 by RPF/Chennai Division. A link has been provided on the official website of Indian Railway

Taking other preventive measures RPF arrested 05 persons in cases of molestation & eve-teasing and arrested 2185 persons found travelling in ladies coaches.

RPF personnel especially ladies RPF personnel, who currently form about 9% of the total strength, go out of the way to help pregnant women who go into labor during their train journeys, in "Operation Amanat". RPF retrieved 1552 passenger belongings valued to the tune of more than Rs. 2.8 Crores under this operation during Jan 22. Lady RPF personnel provided assistance to 07 such women passengers and were instrumental in bringing their children to this beautiful world.

Though Policing is a state subject under 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, RPF supplements the efforts of state police in the field of combating passenger crime under "Operation Yatri Suraksha". During the month of Jan. 22, RPF arrested more than 300 criminals involved in 254 cases of offences against passengers and handed them over to concerned GRP/Local Police. Under the same Operation "Yatri Suraksha", RPF is available on call (Toll Free 139 and other social media forums i.e. Twitter, facebook, instagram etc.) round the clock to receive and resolve security and other grievances of passengers. During the Jan 2022, more than 11230 calls/complaints received from passengers in distress on Toll Free Helpline No. 139 (24 X 7) and twitter related to Security were promptly attended & resolved.

To curb the menace of Human Trafficking through railways, RPF has been working in coordination with other stake holders round the clock. Taking action under the code name Operation "AAHT", RPF has rescued 35

persons (22 minors) with arrest of 08 traffickers in the month of Jan 2022 and handed them over to Police.

Passengers, many a times, leave behind their belongings in haste to catch trains or leave the station. RPF personnel act as guardians and help secure these belongings with an aim to restore them to their rightful owners under "Operation Amanat". RPF retrieved 1552 passenger belongings valued to the tune of more than Rs. 2.8 Crores under this operation during Jan 22.

Narcotics do not only destroy the health of the youth, they damage the economy and well being of the nation too. RPF has been empowered to conduct search, seizure and arrest under NDPS Act in 2019. In order to give focused attention to drive against smuggling of narcotics through rail, RPF has launched "Operation NARCOS". Under this operation, RPF has recovered

Narcotic products valued Rs. 4.57 Crores with arrest of 87 persons during the month of Jan. 2022,

Transportation by trains has become a major conduit for tax evaders/law breakers. RPF has launched a separate operation called "Operation Satark" against illegal transportation of Tobacco Products, unaccounted cash, illegal liquor, unaccounted precious items, smuggled goods etc under which illegal tobacco products worth Rs. 19 Lakhs, Illegal liquor worth Rs. 19 Crores, Unaccounted gold worth Rs 4.90 Cr, unaccounted silver worth Rs 11 Lakh, other smuggled foreign good worth Rs 2.18 Lakhs, and Unaccounted cash worth 2.50 Cr with apprehension of 119 persons. The unaccounted/illegal consignments seized with apprehended

persons were handed over to concerned Law Enforcement Agency

Smuggling of Wildlife, animal parts and forest product is crime against Nature. RPF has been alive to the issue and has taken stringent action under "Operation WILEP" against the smugglers involved in illegal trade of wildlife through railways. In the month of Jap 2022, RPF detected I I cases with arrest of 2 persons and handed over the recovered items like rare turtles, various species of wild birds, endangered vultures to the forest department.

RPF acts as Sentinels on Rail and helps state police/law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in detection of serious cases reported from their respective areas of operation under Operation "Rail Prahari". During January 2022, RPF helped police/LEAs detect 7 cases of serious crime like murder, rape, dacoity/robbery, kidnapping among others.

Under "Operation Dignity", RPF rescued 80 adult men and 153 adult women who were in distress needing immediate care and protection. They were handed over to their respective families/NGOs. Under "Operation Sewa", RPF provided assistance to more than 1000 elderly, sick, divyang persons during their travel by activities ranging from arranging medicines, infant food, wheel chairs, stretchers, medical help to carrying divyang/elderly persons on their shoulders.

RPF personnel acknowledge the responsibility of being "citizens in uniform" and will continue to secure, assist and serve in right earnest in the service of nation and its citizens to realize motto of the Force "Yash Labhaswa" or "Attain Honour"

## Vahak collaborates with Coverstack to provide vehicle insurance to the Indian Trucking Community

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: Vahak, India's most trusted transport community platform, today announced a strategic partnership with Coverstack, a digital B2B insurance infrastructure solution platform.



Vahak, co-founded by IITians Karan Shaha and Vikas Chandrawat in 2019, is on a mission to digitise the Indian logistics sector that currently contributes over 14 per cent to India's GDP. This logistics tech company is fostering India's largest ecosystem of transport SMEs, shippers and lorry/fleet owners on its website and app, amid the fast growing \$250 Billion Logistics Sector in the country. While CoverStack provides technological solutions and insurance infrastructure to BFSI industry players. Aiming to revolutionise the insurance buying market, CoverStack offers a zero-code, ready-to-use, full-stack

platform for buying and servicing insurance digitally, enabling a mass reach out.

With this collaboration, Vahak will bring Coverstack's cutting-edge insurance technology for the Indian trucking community to its app, making digital insurance processes efficient, fast and cost-effective. This tech stack integration on Vahak's app is expected to be completed in the next two months. Elaborating on the collaboration, Karan Shaha, Co-Founder and CEO at Vahak, said, "Our vision is to build a trusted transport community

platform that looks out for transporters, fleet owners, and truckers' well-being. Our collaboration with CoverStack will empower the Indian trucking community with a more convenient and cost-effective way to get vehicle insurance. We are confident that our combined effort will bring greater peace of mind and security to the Indian trucking community."

Sanjib Jha, CEO, Coverstack, added, "We are excited to partner with Vahak, as we believe that this collaboration will bring innovation and value to the Indian trucking

industry. By leveraging the strength of both companies, users will receive the best motor insurance buying experience on their fingertips. Deep integrations have opened new avenues for the insurance sector, enabling insurance and non-insurance players to digitise or add insurance products to their portfolios within months."

Post integration, over half a million monthly active users on the Vahak platform, will be able to buy motor insurance directly from the app at competitive prices. With this, Vahak has expanded its value-added service portfolio on top of GPS, safe and secure payments, digital brand building and networking for both, logistics supply and demand side players, in addition to its core AI and ML technology-enabled marketplace for load-lorry matchmaking with true price discovery and efficient return load booking features.

## Virginia Tech sets up Research and Learning Centre at IIT Madras Research Park for collaborating India with the United States to carry out world-required research jointly on various platforms

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: A collaborative research and learning centre has been set up at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park by leading tier-one research institute Virginia Polytechnic and State University (Virginia Tech) headquartered in the United States of America.

Virginia Technology has multiple locations across India for research and education. The opening of the VT India Centre at IIT Madras Research Park depicts the

university's commitment to collaborate with other leading research entities around the world.

A leadership team from Virginia Tech led by professor Cyril Clarke, Executive Vice President and Provost; Dr Guru Ghosh, Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs; Professor Azim Eskandrian, Nicholas and Rebecca Des Champs, Chair/Professor, Department Head of Mechanical Engineering, professor Dan Sui Senior Vice President, Chief Research and Innovation Officer, Professor Aimee Suprenant, Dean, Virginia Tech Graduation School; Professor Vishwanath Venkatesh, Eminent Scholar and Verizon Chair of Business Information Technology Director.

Virginia Tech has been preparing scholars to be international leaders and problem-solvers since its inception in 1872. The university offers more than 280 majors to a diverse enrollment of



more than 36,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in eight undergraduate colleges, a school of medicine, a veterinary medicine college, Graduate School, and Honors College. Committed to enhancing the quality of life throughout the world, Virginia Tech is also a leading global research institution that conducts more than \$530 million in research annually. The university boasts world-class research institutes and facilities around the world dedicated to supporting research, technology commercialization, collaborations with corporate research partners, and entrepreneurial ventures.

VT India is part of the international reach of Virginia Tech – providing access to research, education, and innovation opportunities to American and Indian partnerships. VT India has a presence in Chennai and Patiala and partnerships with TOPRE, NMIMS, and IIT stretching from Kolkata to Mumbai. VT India's activities envelop research, advanced education, and outreach. The research focus broadly envelops advanced functional materials, autonomous systems and healthcare technologies. More specifically, faculty,

students, and post-doctoral researchers are studying electronic materials, water, energy, robotics and wearable devices.

Throughout all of its locations and through all of its partnerships, VT India explores fundamental science with the goal of propelling research and future applications of advanced materials. The significant thrust by Government of India in the broad area of health care and associated technological interventions has motivated VT India in foraying into research and innovation in health care challenges.

Outreach and International Affairs is a division of Virginia Tech that is charged with building cross-sectoral partnerships, providing professional development programs, and developing community engagement initiatives across the world. OIA is a spearhead for the university's international mission to enrich the global community through research, discovery, and student learning.

Through strategic partnerships around the world, OIA connects Virginia Tech's faculty, staff, and students to opportunities for learning more about complex societal challenges and for helping to improve the quality of life for people

throughout the world.

Later speaking to the press, Cyril Clark, Executive Vice President, Virginia Tech University said that Virginia Tech University is not only doing education but also doing high quality research. He mentioned that we have tied up with IIT Madras as this international university needs quality alliances in the right places.

Professor Vishwanath Venkatesh, Verizon Chair of Business Information Technology Director, said that Virginia Tech University, USA, with its 150-year heritage, is one of the top 20 research institutes in the world, has moved its research center to IIT in Asia. He said that it has started in collaboration with Madras. Through this, the United States and India should jointly carry out researches needed by the world on various platforms, he said.

IIT Madras Research Park India's first university-based research park, IIT Madras Research, epitomizes what can be achieved by a confluence of bringing unlike minds together. It has become a paradigm for innovation ecosystems across geographical boundaries. Five individual towers interconnected by skywalks situated on 11.42 acres, provide over 1.2 million square feet of workspace with several formal, informal, theme-based meeting and networking lounges. Apty named, the Industry-Academia Bridge links IITMRP to IIT Madras – a globally renowned Technology Institute.

## Politics must unify people to build a better society: Sarbananda Sonowal



Chennai, Feb 18 2023: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal visited Majuli, Assam today for a number of events scheduled there. Shri Sonowal boarded a Ro-Pax ferry from Neematighat in Jorhat to reach Aphalamukh in Majuli where he was given warm welcome by the common people of Majuli - the constituency he represented in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Sonowal visited the project site of the much anticipated Jorhat Majuli bridge built over the Brahmaputra and took stock of the work in progress. The Union Minister called upon the officials and the team to focus on building sub-structure swiftly.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sonowal said, "Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the aspiration of Majuli is finally taking shape as the work on the bridge over Brahmaputra begins. Exactly, two years ago, the PM laid foundation of this bridge which is likely to answer to the question of the long awaited bridge by the people of Majuli. Due to Modi ji's vision to empower the region of Northeast and transform the economy through transportation, such mammoth projects are getting green flags. I must also thank Union Minister Nitin Gadkari ji for his firm management of the project to remain on the clock."

The foundation stone for this bridge was laid

down by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on this day exactly two years ago; i.e. 18 Feb, 2021. The 2-lane major bridge including approaches over Brahmaputra River between Majuli (Kamalabari) and Jorhat (Nimati Ghat) (6.8 km) on NH-715K costing Rs 925.47 crore is being constructed. This bridge will provide easy and all time access to the people living in Majuli town with rest of Assam to meet their health, education and day to day development activities. To meet the long pending demand of people of Majuli Island to connect Majuli with Jorhat a new NH -715K connecting Jorhat to Kamalabari (Majuli) was declared on 17-11-2020. This total length of this bridge is 6.8 Km.

As per requirement of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), 40 span of 125m long (5 km) with 10 m vertical clearance over high flood level has been provided to facilitate water transport in Brahmaputra river.

Sonowal also visited the Bangshigopal Natya Mandir, he said, "People's love and trust on me has increased my duty. I remain firmly committed to do my duties for the welfare of the people. I am thankful to the people of Majuli as they have identified me as a member of the family. This is what politics should be. Politics must unify people to build a better society. I am indebted to the people for this love and trust on me."

## Bhupender Yadav releases Twelve cheetahs from South Africa at Kuno National Park

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav released 12 cheetahs from South Africa at Kuno National Park, Sheopur, in the presence of Chief Minister Chouhan and Farmers Narendra Singh



2023: Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav today released 12 cheetahs brought from Kuno National Park, Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh and Union Agriculture Welfare Minister Tomar.

Earlier, after covering a distance of more than 7900 kilometers from Johannesburg in South Africa, these 12 cheetahs reached Kuno National Park via Gwalior after 12 noon.

In a series of tweets Yadav said Project Cheetah, launched under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, reached another milestone today in Kuno National Park with the release of 12 cheetahs.

## Model G20 Discussion - Youth for LiFE organised at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi, deliberations focused on making LiFE a mass movement for Climate Action

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: India's G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant and the United Nations India Resident Coordinator Mr Shombi Sharp participated in the event 'Model G20 Discussion - Youth for LiFE' on Friday. On the occasion, United Nations India Resident Coordinator Mr Shombi Sharp said, "India has become a global leader in Climate Action." He added that the country is in a suitable position to bring different countries together and refocus attention on addressing the important issues of climate change along with development. The meeting was a simulation exercise of a G20 meeting where school students essayed the roles of delegates of G20 and discussed Youth for



LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment).

During the event, Shomi Sharp said, "India is in a unique position to resolve the differences among different countries and refocus attention on climate change and other developmental challenges. "Sharp stated also that this planet is facing climate change, degradation of biodiversity and pollution. Today the young leaders will understand each other's position and come to a consensus.

During the event,

India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant highlighted that the students of schools and universities are already involved in the G20 Presidency realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transforming it into a people's movement and they will also take the positions of their home country forward to others in the world. Amitabh Kant also laid emphasis on the role played by young students in shaping the future. Sherpa Amitabh Kant said, "During the G20 Presidency, Blue Economy is a key priority for India." He said that its development is essential to ensure a low-carbon sustainable future for all. In this event, a total of eight schools from Delhi-NCR including international schools, private schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas participated, in which discussions focusing on the role of youth in making LiFE a mass movement for Climate Action were held along with an exchange of ideas.

## Union Minister Piyush Goyal asks entrepreneurs to focus on world class quality for success

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: Union Minister Piyush Goyal has exhorted entrepreneurs to focus on maintaining world-class quality, unique selling proposition or USP of their products and minimise their dependence on the government, to achieve long-term success of their businesses.

Goyal was interacting with Startup founders and students during the North East Entrepreneurs Dialogue-Accelerating the Startup Growth Engine at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology in Majhitar, Sikkim today.

Goyal shared the IT sector's success story in India without any significant government intervention as well as his own entrepreneurship experience to establish his points. He also pointed out that following the removal of subsidies, the LED



bulb industry in India expanded from selling 6 lakh units annually before 2014 to selling around 6 lakh units on a daily basis, besides reducing per unit costs drastically. Citing this example, he also urged entrepreneurs to focus on the scale of production.

The minister urged all present to work towards maintaining the sanctity of Sikkim's 100 per cent organic state status, stressing on increasing the state's organic product exports from \$1 million to \$1 billion. He also

reiterated that the centre is ready to set up extension campuses of the National Institute of Design and The Indian Institute of Packaging to help entrepreneurs. Addressing issues faced by entrepreneurs in Sikkim, he assured to take up challenges related to air and road connectivity with his cabinet colleagues. He also appreciated the idea of setting up IT hubs in the Northeast region, which would be a win-win situation for IT companies as well as the local talent base.

Earlier, Shri Goyal

visited stalls showcasing products developed by startups from across the northeast region at the Atal Incubation Centre, SMU Technology Business Incubation Foundation at the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology. Sikkim Power Minister Shri MN Sherpa, Soreng MLA Shri Aditya Golay and Dr. (Lt. Gen.) Rajan S Grewal Vice Chancellor Sikkim Manipal University were also present, among others.

## ELECRAMA 2023 dazzles to an electrifying start with 1000 exhibitors showcasing global innovations

Chennai, Feb 18 2023: ELECRAMA 2023, World's largest electrical show by IEEMA, kicked off to an electrifying start following a grand opening at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida on 18th February 2023. The event was graced by chief guest Shri RK Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) Power, New & Renewable Energy; H.E. Zhemu Soda, Hon'ble Minister of Energy and Power Development, Zimbabwe, Mr. Satish Pai, Managing Director, Hindalco Industries; Mr. Jean Pascal Tricoire, Global CEO, Schneider Electric, along with Mr. Rohit Pathak, President, IEEMA; Mr. Jitendra K Agarwal, Chairman, ELECRAMA 2023; Mr. Hamza Arsiwala, President-Elect, IEEMA, Mr. Sunil Singhvi, Vice President, IEEMA, Ms Charu Mathur, Director General, IEEMA and several other dignitaries.

Shri RK Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, added, "I congratulate IEEMA on kickstarting the ELECRAMA 2023 - the 15th edition of world class exhibition of electrical, industrial electronics and allied industry - with a star-studded inaugural ceremony. In the past 5 years, we have brought great transformational changes in our industry. We are committed to being climate-friendly and we are aggressively going ahead with our Hon'ble Prime Minister's belief in ensuring a healthier planet. I am pleased that the focus of ELECRAMA 2023 is on energy transition and future technology which is in line with the Government of India's 'Vision for India@2047'. We are aspiring to become a 5 trillion-dollar economy and we are one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Electricity is the most significant contributor to the energy requirement of the country. I am proud to see the journey and growth of the industry. I feel ELECRAMA 2023 remains pivotal in helping us identify future challenges and subsequently find innovative solutions to overcome them. I look forward to meeting the startups participating in the exhibitions and wish IEEMA all the best for its five-day flagship event."

Kickstarting the



proceedings of the 15th edition of ELECRAMA 2023, Mr. Rohit Pathak, President, IEEMA, said, "We're privileged to have the presence of the Hon'ble Power Minister and two top industry leaders at ELECRAMA 2023. This decade, and perhaps even this century, belongs to Green Electricity as the main source of energy has provided us with an excellent opportunity to Self Reliant on Energy and to Lead the World on some of these new technologies with the scale India provides. Aaj Bharat AatmaNirbhar ho raha hai, aage Vishwa Bharat par Nirbhar hoga (Today, India is becoming self-dependent and, in future, the world will depend on India). We believe that these new technologies will require a lot of innovation, and hence we have created a startup platform at IEEMA called ElectraVerse Spark to allow them to "plug into our world of energy" in a seamless manner.

Given the government's vision pertaining to the sector, we, at IEEMA, have also aligned our Industry Vision for 2047 with the country's future goals. Acting on the vision, this year's ELECRAMA will focus on creating a platform to showcase products & solutions in new energies; discussion forums on R&D and innovation in new technologies; in addition to generation, T&D, and building electrical products. With a greater emphasis on providing quality power and identifying innovative solutions, we, at the behest of ELECRAMA 2023, intend to contribute towards making India Atmanirbhar, Green and Energy independent."

Talking about the evolution of the flagship event over the years, Mr. Jitendra K Agarwal, Chairman, ELECRAMA 2023, said, "In the last 12 months, we organised 11 roadshows in India and overseas across major electrical industry clusters to identify the hunger for its persistent growth. The next five days is a culmination of the journey and findings which, in turn, has led to such a stupendous

response to this year's ELECRAMA. The 15th edition of the mega event is bolstered with special concurrent events such as eTechNxt, World Utility Summit, ELECTRAVERSE start-up challenge, special presence of women in power, and global CEOs in attendance. Furthermore, we're expecting 700 buyers from 75 countries in RBSM, 15000 pre-scheduled b2b meetings, and 300 buyers from Utilities, Railways, Defence, Real Estate, Smart Cities, and large PSUs. Therefore, ELECRAMA 2023 is a true reflection of the capabilities and aspirations of the Indian electrical industry."

Mr. Jean Pascal Tricoire, Global CEO, Schneider Electric, said, "We, at Schneider Electric, consistently strive to identify future challenges and find probable solutions in our persistent bid to contribute to the electrical industry. Our vision is aligned with India's future goals as it continues to break new ground in the power sector. As the country's energy landscape continues to grow, we would continue to support rising India on its exciting journey of electrification and digitization. Invited to attend a flagship event that is credited for inspiring new ideas and innovations in the industry, I am elated to be here at the 15th edition of ELECRAMA that started with an exciting and equally entertaining inaugural ceremony. I wish IEEMA good luck for what promises to be yet another dazzling ELECRAMA edition."

Mr. Satish Pai, Managing Director, Hindalco Industries, said, "At a time when global efforts are being driven to help realise our collective vision of a sustainable future, we must embrace sustainability as a way of life before expecting it to become a way of doing business. As we find new ways of negating uncertainty and future challenges, the coming decade will witness the adoption of numerous innovative, tech-enabled solutions

especially in the field of sustainability which will allow corporations to implement initiatives in a better and more effective manner. At ELECRAMA 2023, I am expecting exhibitors to showcase their ideas and innovations to contribute towards creating a future roadmap for a sustainable future."

The biennial electronics congregation, with 'Reimagine Energy - For Sustainable Future' as this year's theme, will have the largest public showcase yet of industry innovations by over 1000 exhibitors from India and abroad occupying 1,10,000 sqm of exhibition space over the course of next five days. The much-anticipated event is expected to witness 3,50,000 footfall and over 15,000 pre-scheduled meetings between buyers and sellers.

The five-day congregation will also see national and international industry experts and policymakers deliberate upon industry challenges, innovations, and business models through a series of leadership summits and meetings. The premier showcase event will also host the world's largest confluence of power transmission and distribution communities at the 5th Reverse Buyers Sellers Meet (RBSM) and Domestic Buyers Sellers Meet (DBSM). The mega event will also be seen focusing on the role of women in the industry, building stronger electrical systems for homes, offices, and industries, and enabling discussions on the way forward for complete electrification of railways. Digital technologies, IoT and AI-powered electrical systems, and other smart-tech solutions are being showcased at the event.

Completing 33 years of being the only industry platform of its kind, ELECRAMA 2023 is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, and Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. While Uttar Pradesh is the host state partner, Germany is the country partner in the 15th edition of the initiative.