

PM dedicates to nation and lays foundation stone for multiple development projects in Begusarai, Bihar

Dedicates to nation and lays foundation stone for multiple oil and gas projects worth about Rs 1.48 lakh crore

Chennai, March 02 2024: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for multiple oil and gas sector projects worth about Rs 1.48 lakh crore across the country, and several development projects in Bihar worth more than Rs 13,400 in Begusarai, Bihar today.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that he has arrived in Begusarai, Bihar today with the resolution of developing Bihar through the creation of Viksit Bharat. He acknowledged the large crowd and thanked his good fortunes for the love and blessings of the people.

The Prime Minister said that Begusarai is a land of talented youth and it has always strengthened the nation's farmers and workers. He emphasized that the old glory of Begusarai is returning as today projects worth about Rs 1.50 lakh crore are being inaugurated or foundation stones of which are being laid. "Earlier such programmes were held in Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan, but now, Modi has brought Delhi to Begusarai", said the Prime Minister. Projects worth Rs 30,000 crore are related to Bihar alone, he added. This scale shows India's

capabilities and will create new employment opportunities for the youth of Bihar. He underlined that the development projects of today will become a medium to make India the world's third-largest economic power in the world, while also paving the way for service and prosperity in Bihar. The Prime Minister also mentioned the inauguration of new train services for Bihar today.

The Prime Minister reiterated the government's priority for fast-paced development since coming to power in 2014. "History is proof that India has remained empowered when Bihar and Eastern India have been prosperous", the Prime Minister said, pointing out the negative impact of Bihar's deteriorating conditions on the nation. He assured the people of the state that the development of Bihar would make for Viksit Bharat. "This is not a promise, it is a mission, a resolution", the Prime Minister said, highlighting that the projects of today mainly relating to petroleum, fertilizers and railways are a huge step in this direction. "Energy, fertilizers and connectivity are the basis of development. Be it agriculture or industry, everything depends on



them", the Prime Minister said, underlining the government's priority areas to boost employment and employment opportunities.

The Prime Minister reminded them about the starting of the Barauni fertilizer plant, a guarantee that was fulfilled today. "This is a huge achievement for the farmers of the country including those from Bihar", he said. He said that the plants of Gorakhpur, Ramagundam and Sindri were shut down but now they are becoming the mainstay of India's self-reliance in urea. "That is why the nation says, Modi's Guarantees means the guarantee of fulfillment of guarantee", he added.

Prime Minister Modi touched upon the

expansion of the scope of work of Barauni Refinery today which had created employment for thousands of shramiks for months. He emphasized that the Barauni Refinery will give new energy to industrial development in Bihar and play a crucial role in making India aatmanirbhar. The Prime Minister expressed delight in the completion of most of the development projects related to petroleum and natural gas worth more than Rs 65,000 crores in Bihar. He highlighted the convenience of supplying low-cost gas to women in Bihar with the expansion of gas pipeline networks, making it easier to set up industries in the region.

The Prime Minister said 'First Oil' from KG

Basin to the nation, the first crude oil tanker from the ONGC Krishna Godavari deepwater project that was flagged off today, will help in improving self-reliance in this important sector. He said this is how the government is dedicated to national interest function and criticized the selfish dynasty politics. The Prime Minister said that, unlike earlier years, now India's railway modernization is being discussed globally. He mentioned electrification and station upgradation.

The Prime Minister highlighted the stark opposition between the dynasty politics and social justice. Dynasty politics is especially injurious for the talent and youth's welfare, he said.

"True social justice is

achieved by 'santushtikaran', not 'tushtikaran', it is achieved by saturation", the Prime Minister remarked highlighting that he only recognizes secularism and social justice in such forms. He underlined that true social justice can be accomplished with the saturation and delivery of free ration, pucca homes, gas connections, tapped water supply, toilets, free health care services, and Kisan Samman Nidhi for farmers. In the last 10 years, the Prime Minister said that the biggest beneficiaries of government schemes have been dalit, backwards and extremely backward societies.

He said that social justice, for us, means empowerment of Nari

Shakti. He repeated the achievement of making 1 crore women 'Lakhpati Didis' and his resolution to create 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didis', many of them are from Bihar, he informed. He also mentioned PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana that will reduce electricity bills and provide extra income. He said that Bihar's NDA government is relentlessly working for the poor, women, farmers, artisans, backwards and deprived. "Bihar is bound to be Viksit with the double efforts of the double-engine government", the Prime Minister said.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude towards the people and congratulated them for the development projects worth thousands of crores. He also thanked the women for their participation in large numbers today.

Governor of Bihar, Shri Rajendra V Arlekar, Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar, Shri Samrat Choudhary and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Puri, and Member of Parliament, Shri Giriraj Singh were present on the occasion among others.

Background

The Prime Minister inaugurated, dedicated to the nation, and laid the foundation stone for multiple oil and gas projects worth about Rs 1.48 lakh crore. The projects are spread across the country in various states like Bihar, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Karnataka along with KG Basin.

The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation 'Bharat Pashudhan' - a digital database for livestock animals in the country. Developed under the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM), 'Bharat Pashudhan' utilizes a unique 12-digit Tag ID allocated to each livestock animal. Under the project, out of an estimated 30.5 crore bovines, about 29.6 crore have already been tagged and their details are available in the database. 'Bharat Pashudhan' will empower the farmers by providing a traceability system for the bovines and also help in disease monitoring and control.

The Prime Minister also launched '1962 Farmers App', an app which records all data and information present under the 'Bharat Pashudhan' database, which can be utilized by the farmers.

SC dismisses PIL on digital monitoring of MPs, MLAs

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Chennai, March 02 2024: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking to digitally monitor the activities of all elected MPs and MLAs for better transparency.

"We cannot monitor all MPs and MLAs in the country. There is something called the right to privacy also. We cannot put some (electronic) chips on their legs or hands to monitor what they do," said a bench presided over by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud.

Expressing surprise at the petitioner's prayer for 24 x 7 CCTV monitoring of all legislators, the bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said that the elected representatives also have their own personal lives.

Initially, when the petitioner, who appeared in-person, sought a period of 15 minutes to present the case, the apex court cautioned him of imposing Rs 5 lakh costs.

It said: "There will be Rs 5 lakh costs and it will

be executed as arrears of land revenue if we dismiss the petition. We may impose costs because this is public time and the nation pays for this time."

The petitioner, appearing in-person, contended that MPs and MLAs are salaried representatives under the Representation of the People Act who represent opinions of people on making laws, plans and policies and post election, start behaving as rulers.

Unimpressed with the



relief sought in the PIL, the Supreme Court refused to entertain the

petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution. However, it

decided not to impose any costs on the petitioner.

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The Legend Reborn: Kinetic Green launches E-Luna, an All-Electric and Stylish Avatar of the Iconic Luna

Chennai March 02 2024: Kinetic Green, a leading manufacturer of electric vehicles in India, proudly introduced the highly anticipated E-Luna today, a stylish, multi-utility electric two-wheeler with advanced technology and features, at a prestigious event in New Delhi. This all-new electric version of the iconic Luna was unveiled at the hands of Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, alongside Dr. Hanif Qureshi, IPS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, GoI, Dr. Arun Firodia, Chairman of Kinetic Group, and Ms. Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Founder and CEO of Kinetic Green, adding great significance to the momentous occasion.

The E-Luna stands out in the electric vehicle market as a unique offering with unparalleled versatility. It represents innovation as it is designed to cater to personal commuting and various applications for small businesses. Its advanced electric technology and innovative features contribute to an eco-friendly and highly contemporary riding experience.

E-Luna is a high-speed Electric two-wheeler that is 100% designed, engineered and Made in India with a vision that masses, and not just classes, participate in the EV revolution and benefit from the advantages of great savings and noiseless, emission-free ride.

Remembering his first vehicle, Shri Nitin Gadkari expressed "On this special occasion, I reminisce about my first vehicle the Luna, a cherished gift from my mother to me. The Luna holds a special place in my heart as my first vehicle, and though today I own numerous other vehicles, the memories associated with the Luna presented by my mother remain engraved in my heart".

During the unveiling of E-Luna, Ms. Sulajja Firodia Motwani, the Founder and CEO of Kinetic Green said, "The E-Luna's unveiling is a proud moment for

Kinetic Green, marking a nostalgic return to Luna's legacy. E-Luna's entry into the realm of electric mobility is nothing short of a revolution. Beyond just a vehicle launch, it represents our vision of inclusion for the future of e-mobility. Today, electric vehicles have reached only a 5 to 6% penetration in the automobile market and two of the key reasons for this are that most of today's electric vehicle options are expensive making them unaffordable for a vast majority and many of them are not suitable to ride beyond the metro or large cities, making their appeal niche and limited. This is where E-Luna emerges as a beacon of hope, because with E-Luna, electric mobility will become a practical and affordable choice for everyone and everywhere in India. At an introductory ex-showroom price of Rs. 69,990, E-Luna is not only the most affordable high speed electric two-wheeler but also the most easy-on-pocket two-wheeler with its 10 paisa per km running cost!

This electric Multi-Utility Vehicle (MUV), designed for personal or commercial use, goes beyond typical EV products. Symbolizing innovation and minimalistic yet futuristic user-centric design, the E-Luna is fully made in India and designed for Bharat, reflecting our commitment to a sustainable, equitable, and progressive future. In this transformative journey, we are today redefining electric mobility, creating a narrative that echoes the iconic Luna's spirit and shapes India's

transportation future." E-Luna aspires to be more than a mode of transport, presenting itself as a comprehensive solution designed for the street-smart and aspiring Indians underserved by the automotive industry. Positioned as a catalyst for growth, the E-Luna aims to provide personal mobility also to the 75 cr or 50% of Indians who do not own a two-wheeler currently, contributing to Bharat's growth story. Currently the total cost of owning a petrol-based two-wheeler is around Rs. 6,000-7000 per month, with EMI of Rs. 2500-3000 per month and petrol cost of around Rs. 3,000-4000 per month, making personal mobility unaffordable for many. E-Luna's Total cost of ownership (TCO) will be below Rs. 2,500 per month, with EMI of around Rs. 2,000 per month and charging cost of just Rs. 300 per month. At a total monthly cost of only Rs. 2,500, E-Luna can play a pivotal role in serving a broader demographic, addressing the mobility needs of aspirers and contributing to a sustainable and accessible future.

Dr. Arun Firodia, Chairman of Kinetic Group said, "The E-Luna's rebirth signifies a great milestone in Kinetic's journey, offering more than mere transportation. This ground-breaking venture not only signifies a leap into the future of transportation, but also evokes a profound sense of nostalgia, tapping into the beautiful memories and emotions connected with the

Luna. This brings a unique touch, reminding us of the simpler times while at the same time, propelling us into a modern era of innovation. E-Luna effortlessly preserves the nostalgic charm of its predecessor, while embracing sustainability and cutting-edge technology.

I am proud to state that the E-Luna is 100% designed for India and 100% Made in India! We are also proud to share that the entire Kinetic Group has supported the E-Luna development, and our group companies like Kinetic Engineering, Kinetic Communications and Kinetic Electric Motor Company have developed the key components like the E-Luna trademark chassis, the transmission, smart controller, digital cluster and the motor. Kinetic Green team has worked tirelessly over the last three years on the development of the E-Luna and I am very pleased at the outcome!"

The E-Luna will be launched in a range of 5 attractive metallic colors, including Mulberry Red, Pearl Yellow, Night Star Black, Ocean Blue, and Sparkling Green, allowing users to personalize their style.

The all-new E-Luna can be pre-booked at www.kineticgreen.com for just Rs. 500! Deliveries will soon start from all Kinetic Green dealerships nationwide. E-Luna will also be available on Amazon and Flipkart. E-Luna can also be personalized with range of accessories.



As The Official Vehicle Partner, Toyota Hilux Sparks Thrill in Indian Supercross Racing League's Final Round of the Dirt Bike Race in Bengaluru

Chennai March 02 2024: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) proudly continues its exciting partnership with the Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL), showcasing the iconic Hilux being its official vehicle partner. The ISRL marks the world's first franchise-based supercross league in India, and TKM's collaboration through the iconic Hilux has created unforgettable experiences, captivating audiences, and setting new standards for motorsports and automobile enthusiasts across the country. Following the first and second rounds held in Pune (Jan 2024) and Ahmedabad (Feb 2024) respectively, the ISRL concluded its third leg at Open Ground (Airport Road), Chikkajala in Bengaluru on February 25th, 2024, transcending the conventional boundaries of racing, embarking on a mission to redefine motorsports in India. This final round received overwhelming response with participation of over 7000+ fans, highlighting the growing popularity and significance of off-roading engagements in India.

Toyota has a robust international motorsports legacy of over six decades, engaging in prestigious events like the World Rally Championship, Dakar Rally, and World Endurance Championship. The partnership with ISRL reflects Toyota's broader motorsport efforts in India, connecting with enthusiasts and providing exceptional racing experiences. Celebrated for its exceptional off-roading strengths, the Hilux took centre stage at three strategic locations within the event areas. The opening ceremony of the dirt bike race witnessed the entry of Toyota Hilux loaded with dirt bikes, showcasing its unique, dynamic 4X4 capabilities on the supercross tracks, delivering immense joy to the onlookers at the stadium. Aimed to enhance the thrill of the spectators at the ISRL, Toyota Hilux exhibited breathtaking off-roading performances, navigating the intricately designed rough tracks adorned with various obstacles



including articulation, side-inclines to steep hill ascents and descents.

This off-road, high-octane supercross racing took place on a constructed dirt track consisting of steep jumps, rocky trails and gravel-pinging tail slides, featuring renowned riders from both India and the global arena. Adding to the whole racing excitement, Toyota Hilux, a perfect vehicle partner equipped with exceptional 4x4 drive, demonstrated a spectacular show for the thrill-seekers and further served the needs of teams and officials during ISRL's dirt bike race. The race event witnessed the gracious presence of Veer Patel, Eeshan Lokhande and Aashwin Lokhande, Co-founders and Directors of the CEAT Indian Supercross Racing League and other key dignitaries.

CEAT Indian Superbike Racing League (ISRL) featured six teams, each with 8 riders navigating the challenging off-road setups, showcasing their international calibre by completing 10 laps and earning high points over the competitors in their respective categories. ISRL presented a diverse lineup of customized bikes from renowned international brands like Kawasaki, Honda, and KTM, spanning 85cc to 450cc, including the junior's category. Notable team owners, including BB Racing, BigRock Motorsports, Reize Motorsports, Mohite's Racing Team, Gujarat TrailBlazers, and SG Speed Racers, participated. Team BigRock Motorsports, emerged as the champion team of the season, receiving trophies from Mr. Gautam BS, Vice President FMSCI and Mr. Sujithkumar BS - FIM Delegate. The event drew a substantial audience, including off-

roading enthusiasts, passionate motorsport fans from both biking and car racing spheres, and even Hilux customers. With nearly 80% of the racers hailing from international backgrounds, the ISRL season showcased its global allure and positions India as a pivotal hub in the supercross world. Beyond being a sporting spectacle, this dirt bike racing represents a cultural movement that prioritizes community involvement and recreation, nurtures talent, and develop dirt bike champions.

Speaking on TKM's partnership with ISRL, Mr. Sabari Manohar, Vice President - Sales-Service-Used Car Business of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "Toyota Kirloskar Motor brings unparalleled experience for motorsport enthusiasts and forging lasting connections with our valued customers through dynamic partnerships and off-roading initiatives. Our association with motorsports globally has a rich history, and we are excited to extend our support to the Indian Supercross Racing League as their official vehicle partner with Toyota Hilux. With its extraordinary off-roading capabilities, Hilux staged an adrenaline-packed performance for the viewers of ISRL, not only limiting to creating dirt tracks and mobilising bikes, but also creating unforgettable moments with its delightful acts during the racing event.

As a part of Toyota's product offering, Hilux, not only fulfils the needs of customers seeking an exceptional lifestyle utility vehicle for off-roading adventures but is also well-suited for everyday city use. Its versatility makes it the perfect choice for various purposes,

including campervan, farming, defence, mining, construction, rescue van, and more." he added.

Sharing his views about the official vehicle partnership with Toyota, Mr. Veer Patel, Director & Co-Founder Indian Supercross Racing League, said, "The CEAT Indian Supercross Racing League transcends mere racing; it embarks on a transformative journey to reshape the very essence of motorsports in India. Having the Toyota Hilux as our Official Vehicle Partner has elevated the Indian Supercross Racing League to new heights. The Hilux's spectacular performance on the challenging dirt tracks have set new standards in Indian supercross racing.

We eagerly anticipate continuing this thrilling partnership, delivering more exhilarating races in the future. The seamless movement of our dirt bikes facilitated by the Hilux and its impressive 4X4 demonstrations has created a high-energy racing spectacle, building momentum among passionate dirt bike fans. With Toyota's support, we are thrilled to provide a world-class experience to our audience and skilled racers. The successful culmination of our three-round dirt bike races has captivated the hearts of viewers across the country."

Last year, Toyota Kirloskar Motor launched the 'Great 4X4 Expedition,' providing 4X4 enthusiasts in India, including owners of various SUV brands, with a unique off-roading experience. Zonal drives across South, East, West, and North regions offered distinctive adventures for the vibrant 4X4 community. This year, TKM plans to extend the expedition to the northeastern region. In addition to this, TKM's collaboration with the supercross is a key part of the company's growing motorsport initiatives. TKM eagerly anticipates future partnerships with ISRL, pledging to maintain its dedication to providing memorable racing experiences, engaging audiences, and establishing new benchmarks for motorsports enthusiasts in the nation.

Grammy-winning Violin Maestro Ganesh Rajagopalan gets warm reception in Chennai

Chennai March 02 2024: Celebrated fusion band Shakti, led by maestros Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin, clinched the Grammy for 'Best Global Music Album' with their latest masterpiece 'This Moment'. Ganesh Rajagopalan, part of the renowned violin duo Ganesh Kumaresh, is the lead violinist of Shakti.



Hailing from Chennai, Ganesh brings over five decades of musical prowess alongside his brother Kumaresh. Their legacy in Indian classical music has left an indelible mark on the genre.

Ganesh's contributions extend beyond Shakti; he is a pioneer in carving a niche for instrumental music in India.

Collaborating with icons like Ilayaraja, AR Rahman, and M M Keeravani, Ganesh's compositions blend genres seamlessly with Carnatic music, pushing the boundaries of innovation.

His achievements include the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, a testament to his mastery in the performing arts.

Reflecting on the Grammy win, Ganesh expressed gratitude to

founder of Eswara School of Music, said: "Three from Tamil Nadu - Shankar Mahadevan, Selvaganesh and myself - are part of the Grammy winning team. I consider this as a pride for whole Tamil Nadu and India. While thanking Zakir ji and John McLaughlin ji, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all musicians, media and fans who have supported me in my musical journey."

Reiterating that music is beyond all boundaries, he pointed out that the Grammy-winning album 'This Moment' was created during the COVID pandemic by musicians of Shakti band who were located in various places.

the band and acknowledged the faith bestowed upon him by Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin. He remarked, "Indian classical music has been integral to my journey, and this win is its crowning glory as we continue to create musical masterpieces for global audiences. I feel so happy."

Ganesh Rajagopalan, a performing artiste, composer, educator, and

V House productions Suresh Kamatchi presents Filmmaker Bala directorial Arun Vijay starrer "Vanagaan" Teaser scales 4 Million+ views in Single Day

Chennai, March 02 2024: Suresh Kamatchi's V House Productions, renowned for captivating film enthusiasts with their exceptional creations such as 'Amaithipadai-2', 'Kangaroo', 'Miga Miga Avarasam', and 'Maanadu', is now preparing to present yet another groundbreaking masterpiece titled 'Vanagaan'.



In this extraordinary film, Arun Vijay takes on the lead role, while the talented Roshini Prakash graces the screen as the heroine. The ensemble cast includes the likes of Samuthirakani, Mysskin, Shanmugarajan, and many other prominent actors, who bring their immense talent to the forefront.

The musical score of 'Vanagaan' is composed by the maestro G.V. Prakash Kumar, adding a touch of brilliance to the film's captivating narrative.

Director Bala, known for his ability to seamlessly blend commercial and artistic elements, has once again showcased his unparalleled mastery of

film making. His collaboration with the esteemed producer Suresh Kamatchi, who is dedicated to presenting content-driven movies, has piqued the curiosity of audiences, as they eagerly anticipate the magic that will unfold on the silver screen.

The first look poster of 'Vanagaan' has already been unveiled, receiving a warm reception from fans and critics alike.

Furthermore, the recently released teaser has garnered an overwhelming response, with four million fans indulging in its captivating essence within a single day.

The cinematography of 'Vanagaan' is skillfully handled by RB Gurudev and Satish Surya, while RB Nagu brings his artistic vision to life as the art director. Currently, the post-production work

is in full swing, ensuring that every aspect of the film is meticulously crafted to perfection.

Arun Vijay's diverse portrayal and striking appearance, coupled with Stunt Silva's exhilarating action sequences and the pulsating music by GV Prakash, will undoubtedly leave audiences yearning to watch the teaser of 'Vanagaan' on repeat mode.

Talent development is a key priority for Indian companies in 2024: LinkedIn

Chennai, March 02 2024: LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, has released its latest Workplace Learning Report which points out that 94% of companies in India plan to enhance their employees' skills and abilities this year, as AI continues to reshape the world of work. According to the report, upskilling employees, aligning learning programs to business goals, and creating a culture of learning are the top 3 focus areas for India's Learning & Development (L&D) professionals in 2024.

Soft skills take centre stage as 9 in 10 L&D pros prioritise human skills

Amidst rapidly changing skill requirements due to AI and automation, 98% of employers in India note significant shifts in the skills they prioritise in job candidates. Companies now value candidates with not just AI expertise, but also soft skills and a capacity for learning.

The report reveals that 91% of L&D professionals in India view human skills as increasingly competitive in the economy. 'Communication' has topped LinkedIn's most in-demand skills list in 2024 across all countries in APAC, including India. Our research also shows that soft skills like critical thinking and problem-solving are amongst the

top five skills that hiring managers in India consider the most important in the era of AI.

Ruchee Anand, Senior Director - Talent, Learning and Engagement Solutions, LinkedIn India, says, "Last year, we saw a 21x surge in job postings mentioning ChatGPT or GPT on LinkedIn, reflecting the growing demand for tech skills as businesses explored AI. This year, we are seeing a pronounced shift towards skills - both technical and soft skills - to thrive in the era of AI. With skills for jobs globally expected to change 68% by 2030, we are seeing a greater emphasis on learning both technical and soft skills with a majority of employers surveyed agreeing that this balance will be critical for organisations to succeed in the age of AI."

L&D professionals keen on investing in a culture of continuous learning

Companies in India are focussing on enhancing employees' skills for greater confidence and job security by offering online training and development programmes (53%) and providing opportunities for hands-on experimentation with GenAI tools (54%).

This soaring focus on creating a culture of learning will lead to increased investments

in learning opportunities. In fact, 96% of L&D professionals in India say they can show business value by helping employees gain skills to move into different internal roles.

Attracting and retaining top talent through internal mobility

LinkedIn's report highlights that 48% of India's hiring managers are providing career progression opportunities to their existing employees. They also believe 'helping employees build the skills needed for the future of work' (38%) and 'providing competitive salary and benefits' (31%) are key to retaining top talent.

Additionally, India's hiring managers believe that highlighting career advancement opportunities (59%), and 'increasing internal mobility' (51%) are crucial to attract top talent.

LinkedIn introduces AI-powered features to help companies hire, upskill, and develop talent

To assist companies in taking a skills-first approach for achieving their L&D and talent goals, LinkedIn has introduced innovative AI-powered experiences, featuring:

- Tools such as Recruiter 2024, LinkedIn's AI-assisted recruiting experience, enables hirers to quickly access high-

quality candidate recommendations by using natural language search prompts and rich data from millions of professionals and companies, ensuring they are able to shortlist talent based on skills they need. These features will ramp to all of LinkedIn's APAC customers in English-speaking markets from the end of February.

- To empower companies to build the skills they need for the next decade of work, LinkedIn has launched AI-powered coaching in LinkedIn Learning a chatbot experience that offers real-time advice and tailored content recommendations all personalised for learners based on their job title, career goal, and skills they follow. This is currently available to APAC customers in English-speaking markets. LinkedIn has also been focused on expanding their in-demand skills library, including AI courses that have seen a 5X uptick in learners.

In early March, LinkedIn will be launching new career development and internal mobility features within LinkedIn Learning to help guide employees to critical skills, develop skills that matter to grow, and connect to the best-fit opportunity at their organisation. This will be available in English, Hindi, Japanese, Indonesian and Malay, amongst others.

Centre issues advisory for State governments to legalize bike taxis

Chennai, March 02 2024: In an attempt to address the ongoing debate around the legality of bike taxis, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued an advisory on January 22, 2024. The advisory clarifies that motorcycles fall within the definition of contract carriages as per Section 2(7) of the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, 1988.

The issue of regulatory compliance when it comes to bike taxi operations across states in India has always been uncertain. While Goa, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have permitted them, they are banned in the states of Maharashtra and Delhi. MoRTH's advisory comes as a welcome intervention for bike taxi operators like Rapido who have been struggling with regulatory uncertainties and licensing issues since their inception.

The bike taxi industry in India, at large, stands to benefit significantly from the central government's support as it offers them opportunities to expand their operations, enhance their services, and contribute to the

nation's mobility ecosystem. By recognising bike taxis as a legal mode of public transport, a cost-effective solution that has gained popularity, especially in the Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of India over the last decade can now thrive without regulatory hurdles.

This positive stance by MoRTH towards bike taxis opens up a lot of potential avenues for solving first and last mile connectivity issues, reducing traffic congestion, and increasing the range of affordable and accessible commute options for not just Tier 1, but Tier and Tier 3 cities.

Bike taxi captains who have been previously operating in an environment of uncertainty and intimidation because of constant backlash from auto and cab unions, can now operate with a sense of security and legitimacy. The step taken by MoRTH towards legalizing bike taxis will pave the way for their professional growth, economic stability, and further opportunities for employment generation. It will also protect the bike taxi captains from getting fined by authorities

owing to licensing issues, which will contribute to a more sustainable and stable livelihood for these essential service providers.

Commenting on this matter, Pavan Guntupalli, Co-founder of Rapido stated, "We sincerely appreciate the advisory issued by MoRTH on bike taxi regulation, as it provides much-needed clarity for the entire industry. We are hopeful that all states and UTs will start accepting and processing applications for granting permits to bike taxis. The streamlined regulations offer to widen the scope of impact that can be realized, especially in terms of traffic decongestion, employment generation, and sustainable transportation. We are committed to identifying and addressing the critical commuting challenges that continue to persist across regions in India and are incredibly grateful to the government's support in helping us on this journey of continuous learning and innovation."

An independent senior lawyer and

subject matter expert, Abhishek Awasthi, Senior Partner, AZB and Partners, expressed his views stating, "MoRTH has issued this advisory clearing the regulatory dilemma. It is clear from the advisory that two wheelers are covered under the definition Motor Vehicles. The state governments should follow the advisory and register and issue contract carriage permits to two wheelers," said Abhishek Awasthi, Senior Partner, AZB and Partners."

With a 60% share in the bike taxi market, Rapido is the largest bike taxi aggregator in India.

Currently facilitating over 1 million+ bike taxi rides per day across India, Rapido has emerged as a massive employment generator, especially within the country's gig workforce population. With a vision to improve commute by leveraging existing transport infrastructure, Rapido also aims to create a positive impact in the socio economic fabric of the nation by creating one-stop solutions that are affordable and accessible by all.

PROFILE OF ABHINANDAN LODHA CHAIRMAN, LODHA VENTURES

Chennai, March 02 2024: Abhinandan Lodha, Chairman, Lodha Ventures An Abhinandan Lodha Enterprise, is a young thought leader who likes challenging norms and carving his own path. In 2015, he established Lodha Ventures An Abhinandan Lodha Enterprise with the aim of incubating new-age consumer tech businesses that are both sustainable and profitable. Since its inception in 2018, his PE fund, Tomorrow Capital, has flourished, becoming a successful Private Equity firm in the country.



A significant milestone in the growth trajectory of Lodha Ventures An Abhinandan Lodha Enterprise occurred in 2019 with the investment in Bonito Designs, a bespoke home décor and design solutions company. Through this investment, he has democratised the home interiors space, driven by a technology and design-led approach.

Abhinandan Lodha founded The House of Abhinandan Lodha (HoABL), India's largest branded land developer. HoABL is revolutionising transacting in India

through technology, introducing transparency, liquidity, and trust in real estate as an asset class. His unique business model of "Digital only" has surprised even experts in the digital space. HoABL's projects span across Alibaug, Anjarle, Dapoli, Neral in Maharashtra, Goa, and Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, with many more upcoming Cultural and Tourist locations across India.

Abhinandan is a risk taker with foresight. His foray in real estate through HoABL is just a 5-year story and is a great example of his foresight and risk-taking ability. As is well known, it is not easy to acquire large parcels of land with clean and unencumbered titles and other vested interests. He has ventured into locations which no large

30, he led India's largest-ever land purchase of Rs 5700 crores at New Cuffe Parade, Wadala in Mumbai. He also spearheaded the largest launch of 'The Park,' generating billions in applications within nine days. Additionally, he raised Rs 2850 crore in the largest overseas financing by an Indian real estate company and led India's second overseas bond issue for a real estate company of USD 200 million.

The sales, marketing, and brand positioning practices introduced by Abhinandan Lodha at Macrotech Developers have now become a benchmark followed by the industry at large.

In addition to Tomorrow Capital and HoABL, the group has other companies: Bonito Designs, EasiLoan, BeyondSkool, and a CSR arm - Sheetal Lodha Foundation, which is led by his wife Sheetal Lodha.

Abhinandan Lodha emphasises the potential of rural India, deeming that opportunities lie in non-urban locations. He echoes the sentiment that "Real India lives in villages," truly believing that it's not just about Indians living in Bharat but about Indians making a living in Bharat.

developer thought worthy of and that too being a developer from Mumbai and this during a period when real estate has been booming in top ten towns like never before.

In his professional journey prior to Lodha Ventures An Abhinandan Lodha Enterprise, Abhinandan Lodha served as the Joint Managing Director at Macrotech Developers (formerly Lodha Developers). During his tenure, he spearheaded significant growth in sales, marketing, and financial functions, witnessing an exponential increase in the company's sales from Rs 2 crore p.a. to Rs 8000 crore p.a.

At 25, Abhinandan Lodha closed India's largest-ever FDI deal of USD 410 million with Deutsche Bank. By age

SRM hosts Intl. conference on advanced materials and devices, 170 eminent global scientists take part Universities must focus more on research, innovation, & inventions: Dr. T.R.Paarivendhar

Chennai, March 02 2024: The role of educational institutions, especially universities should not just be restricted to giving degrees, but also at the same time, focus on research, innovation, and inventions, Dr. T.R.Paarivendhar, Honourable MP, and Founder & Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, said on Monday.

Research should benefit the world:

Presiding over the inaugural function of the International Conference on Advanced Functional Materials and Devices AFMD 2024, Dr. Paarivendhar said that young researchers and scholars, ably assisted by faculty and their institutions should focus on productive research, and also in the process patent their inventions. He added that such fruitful research should benefit society, not just in India, but all over the world.

He said it was a matter of great pride that SRM was the pioneer in introducing Nanotechnology as branch of specialisation, adding they invested about Rs. 50 crore on facilities and resources on Nanotechnology. Appreciating the Nanotechnology Research Centre of SRMIST for organising the conference on a grand scale with participation from some of the premier technical institutions the world



over, Dr. Paarivendhar said 170 globally eminent scientists from 33 countries would be sharing their expertise.

In his Inaugural Address, Dr. Ashish Lele, Director, National Chemical Laboratory, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, said advancements in material sciences had today spanned in different applications and advanced the functionality of materials, thereby getting incorporated in various devices.

Stating that material science went hand in hand with human civilisation, Dr. Lele traced mankind's experiments with various materials through stone, iron, and bronze ages. Nanotechnology, he said became very popular during the middle of the 29th century, and the next revolution, he added would be in the sphere of bio materials. The challenges ahead, he said would be its complete understanding and how engineers could synthesise these materials in the labs, considering complex issues in a sustainable and circular economy.

Hydrogen Fuel Cell powered Cataraman launch:

Later in a brief chat with media on the sidelines of the conference, Dr. Lele said they would be launching India's 1st fuel cell Cataraman prototype at Kochi Shipyard on Wednesday, 28 February National Science Day.

"We are very happy that India has taken a big bet on hydrogen. This is an area which is evolving, and we are very proud. We feel that hydrogen will be one of the solutions as it has its own niche area of applications. Whether it is refining, chemical, or fertiliser industries, replacing grey hydrogen emitting CO2 with Green Hydrogen with much less emissions is going to decarbonise important sectors. These are the first steps and the next step will be mobility.

"The catamaran that I talked about is green hydrogen's fuel cell powered in the shipping sector, where India has tremendous potential for making and using hydrogen. We, along with an industry partner developed fuel cells which converts hydrogen and oxygen into electricity without burning it. The fuel cell devices are much more efficient than any internal combustion

engine and the only by-product is water and this is completely non-polluting. When this fuel cell is used to fit into vehicles including catamarans, or buses and trucks, that carry a lot of weight, they can drive longer. These devices are extremely useful for long and heavy commercial transportation," Dr. Lele added.

Dr. M.Navaneethan, Convenor, AFMD 2024, welcomed the gathering. Prof. C.Muthamizhchelvan, Vice Chancellor, SRMIST, delivered his special address. Dr. Dinakar Kanjilal, Former Director, Inter-University Accelerator Centre, (IUAC), New Delhi, Guest of Honour, lauded SRM for hosting the international conference, adding that the institution's programmes were creating a huge impact nationally and internationally. Dr. S. Ponnusamy, Registrar, also spoke.

Dr. Kanjilal received the Lifetime Excellence Award on the occasion from Dr. Paarivendhar. Prof. D.K.Aswal, Director, Health Safety and Environment Group, BARC, Mumbai, and Prof. Kazuhiko Hara, Dean, Graduate School of Medical Photonics, Shizuoka University, Japan, received the Outstanding Achievement Awards on the occasion. Dr. E.Senthil Kumar, Convenor, AFMD, 2024, thanked the gathering.

KRAFTON India Announces the Launch of Garuda Saga

Chennai March 02 2024: KRAFTON India and Alchemist Games, today launched Garuda Saga, an Indian themed, roguelike mobile game. Tailored exclusively for the Indian audience, Garuda Saga stands out with its immersive gameplay and is now available for download and play on Android and iOS.

Garuda Saga offers players a personalized RPG experience, tailored to their unique playstyle. Drawing inspiration from rich Indian themes, players assume the role of Garuda. Armed with a trusty bow and unmatched speed, Garuda progresses through levels, conquering monsters, and acquiring new skills with each victory.

"Garuda Saga is a



uniquely engaging game and tailoring it for the Indian audience has been an exhilarating adventure. With close collaboration between KRAFTON India team, we've intricately woven the vibrant essence of India into every aspect of the game, from its storyline to its characters, truly

bringing Garuda Saga to life. We look forward to delivering more unforgettable gaming experiences that captivate and inspire players throughout India." said Anuj Sahani, Head of KRAFTON Incubator Program & Garuda Saga Lead

"Collaborating with

KRAFTON for Garuda Saga has been a journey of discovery and innovation. Garuda Saga's charm lies in blend of Indian themes layered with fun gameplay mechanics. We look forward to the community experiencing the magic of Garuda Saga and to creating more groundbreaking games that resonate with Indian players." said Kipum Jun, CEO, Alchemist Games

Pre-registration for Garuda Saga opened on February 5th. Players can now download the game from Google Play and Apple App Store.

For more details, follow the official India website, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube pages of Garuda Saga.

Religare Finvest Limited (RFL) is External Debt Free; Clears All Legacy Issues and is Ready for Business

Chennai March 02 2024: Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) today announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, RFL, has successfully cleared all its debts with external lenders, effectively resolving all legacy issues. The debt resolution initiative has resulted in clearing the default status of RFL and has made it

external debt-free. It is a significant milestone in its revival journey towards financial stability and operational efficiency. RFL is now ready for fresh lending business.

RFL diligently repaid over Rs 9,000 crores to the country's banking system through collections and with the support of REL. Through the One-

Time-Settlement (OTS), RFL completed the debt repayment of Rs 2178 crore to 16 external lenders on 8th March 2023, ahead of schedule.

This debt resolution marks the culmination of efforts of the management to address legacy issues stemming from the misconduct & siphoning off funds from Religare by the erstwhile promoters of

REL.

With the external debt settlement completed, RFL is ready to resume operations with renewed vigour and strategic clarity, aiming to carve a niche for itself in the Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) lending segment subject to removal of CAP placed by RBI.

Godrej Industries Limited (Chemicals) Features In The CDP Climate Change Leadership Index

Chennai March 02 2024: Godrej Industries Limited (Chemicals) have been ranked on the leadership index in the CDP's Climate Disclosure Index 2023. Besides the public disclosure of our targets, strong governance structure, risk management strategies and measures implemented to mitigate the impacts of climate change we scored higher on our scope 3 emissions and climate change opportunities disclosure that helped us in scoring "A-" in Climate Change disclosures.

CDP is a global non-profit environmental disclosure platform. Over 23,000 companies representing US \$67 trillion in market capitalization, disclosed their environmental performance data to CDP in 2023. The

information provided by companies is independently assessed using CDP's best-in-class scoring methodology.

Godrej Industries Limited (Chemicals) is one of the few Indian companies who have made it to the leadership index. We have taken several initiatives in the past few years towards achieving our environmental sustainability targets. Some of the key initiatives we have taken during last fiscal year on the climate change front which helped us rank on the leadership index are:

1. Complete mapping and monitoring of Scope 3 emissions
2. Over 68% of energy from renewables

3. Reduced specific emissions per tonne of product by 66% from FY 12

Besides Climate Change, we also submitted Water Security and Forests disclosures. We scored "B" in water security and "B-" in forests which is higher than Asia average and Chemicals sector average score of "C" in both disclosures.

Mr. Nadir Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej Industries Limited said "We are delighted that Godrej Industries Limited (Chemicals) has received excellent ratings from CDP. As we grow globally, leaving a smaller footprint of our products will make a big difference in fighting climate change. This recognition of our efforts further encourages us to

continue making progress in our sustainability journey."

Vishal Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Godrej Industries Limited says, "Our ethos is rooted in improvement, ensuring that our growth is linked to sustainable practices. The way we run and do business is as important as why we do business. This recognition underscores our belief that people, planet, and profit can be simultaneously served by thoughtful sustainable strategies. Thanks to our teams we are constantly strengthening our environmental performance and we will work consistently on improving and setting industry benchmarks."