

Bachelors Degrees conferred on 205 Cadets at the 146th NDA Convocation ceremony 17 Cadets from Friendly Foreign Countries also awarded Degrees

Chennai, May 22 2024: The Convocation Ceremony of 146th course of National Defence Academy was held at the Habibullah Hall in NDA, Pune on May 23, 2024. A total of 205 cadets were conferred the prestigious Bachelors degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala & Vice Chancellor (Addl Charge), Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, Prof (Dr) Sat Prakash Bansal.

A total of 82 cadets were conferred degree in Science stream, 84 cadets in Computer Science stream and 39

cadets in Arts stream. 17 cadets from friendly foreign countries were also awarded degrees during the Convocation Ceremony. In addition, the B Tech stream comprising of 132 cadets of Navy and Air Force cadets also received 'three years course completion' certificate as these Naval and Air Force cadets will be conferred with the degree after completion of one year training at their respective pre-commissioning training academics i.e. Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and Air Force Academy, Hyderabad, respectively.

The academic report of Spring Term - 2024 was presented.



The Chief Guest in his convocation address congratulated the cadets of the passing out course for successful completion of their gruelling training from one of the premier training

academies of world repute. He congratulated and conveyed his sincere gratitude to all the parents who motivated their wards to join this prestigious 'Tri Services' training

institute of the Indian Armed Forces.

Earlier, as a prelude to the Passing out Parade, a Cadets' Activity Display exhibiting exceptional standards of skills

acquired through various aspects of military training was conducted at Bombay Stadium, National Defence Academy, Pune. It involved spectacular awe inspiring acts of

combat and adventure. The display was graced by Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande. The audience also included, various senior dignitaries and the proud parents of the Passing Out Course and the cadets of 146th Course. The display started with welcome of the august gathering by the standing salute and flag hoisting in a true cavalry tradition. The event showcased an ensemble of 270 cadets and 38 horses displaying high standards of training, complete synchronization of actions and physical excellence.

The event stated with daring and fearless equestrian display by the cadets left everyone spellbound and

awestruck. The cadets of the NDA demonstrated a display of Jointmanship by undertaking a synchronised Tri-Services Attack Demo. This was succeeded by a display of audacious and breathtaking sky diving display by the elite Akash Ganga Team. The cadets then displayed their physical training standards in a well synchronised and exhilarating sequence comprising of skipping rope exercises and gymnastic maneuvers. This was followed by an outstanding display of musical ride which captivate the audience. The event ended with the tableau formation bidding ADIEU to 146th Course by the High Horse Team.

Works commenced to face-lift Mannargudi railway station under Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme

Chennai, May 22 2024: Mannargudi known for agriculture, metal works and weaving is a major station in Tiruchchirappalli Division where the rail

network is well connected with the major cities like Chennai, Trichy, Thanjavur, Thiruvavur, Kumbakonam etc. It is being taken up for a

major revamp under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme which envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long term vision'. The redeveloped

station will provide amenities and services to the passengers in line with world class railway stations. The revamped station will improve passenger experience by

providing amenities like



Another view of the outer facade of the Station

digital signage, escalators / elevators, executive lounges, luggage screening machines, walkways, holding areas for passengers, grand and distinctive roofing and flooring, free and paid Wi-Fi etc.

Contract has been awarded and the works has been commenced for various infrastructural modifications at a cost of Rs.4.69Crore

Improvements to passenger amenities at the Mannargudi railway

stations

The front side of the stations will witness an entrance arch, significant roadwork, with the development of parking spaces and pedestrian walkways, enhancing accessibility and convenience for commuters.

A new ticket booking counters will be built and waiting halls with improved flooring, seating and toilet facilities will also be constructed. Well designed pickup and drop-off provided for

embarking and disembarking of passengers from auto/taxi to reach directly porch area.

New toilet will be constructed and the existing toilets will be renovated for the use of passengers.

Platforms in the stations will receive significant attention, with the addition of benches, drinking water facilities and aesthetic shelters, ensuring a comfortable and pleasant experience for travelers.

Well designed ramps are also planned to be provided at the porticos for the Divyangjan and elderly people and concourse area will be renovated.

The station premises will feature new signage boards and LED display boards, facilitating easy navigation and providing essential travel

information to commuters.

Passengers can take memorable pictures at the new selfie points.

To promote energy efficiency, sustainable practices, and tapping into non-conventional energy sources, LED lights will be used throughout the station buildings, to provide better illumination consuming lesser power.

An Integrated Passenger Information System will be implemented, providing real-time updates on train schedules, platform changes, and other crucial travel information, ensuring a seamless and informed journey for passengers.

The modernization of the Mannargudi railway stations will enhance the overall travel experience of the passengers.

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THE UNSTOPPABLE TVS APACHE RTR 160 SERIES BLAZE IN WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE ALL NEW BLACK EDITION IN TAMIL NADU

Chennai, May 22 2024: TVS Motor Company (TVSM) - a leading global automaker that operates in the two and three-wheeler segment today launched 'A Blaze of Black' Dark Edition variant of the TVS Apache 160 series motorcycles, namely the TVS Apache RTR 160 and RTR 160 4V in Tamil Nadu. The Apache RTR 160 4V is India's most powerful 160cc oil cooled motorcycle putting out 17.6 PS @ 9250 power. Both motorcycles come with best-in-segment performance features including three ride modes, digital LCD cluster, LED headlamp and taillamp and GTT. The segment first ride modes are a combination of engine and ABS mode to give 3 modes - Sport, Urban and Rain which are engineered for different riding environments.

With a strong presence in over 60 countries, TVS Apache has become the fastest growing sports



motorcycle brand world over. Born out of the TVS Racing DNA, the series leads in innovation right from its performance, unique design, technology to engineering which are focused on rider engagement, safety and comfort. Built and developed around the Track To Road philosophy, the TVS Apache series has helped democratise racing and grown exponentially from just a product to a highly aspirational motorcycle brand.

Speaking on the announcement, Vimal Sumbly, Head Business - Premium, TVS Motor Company, said, "Rooted

in a rich racing legacy of over four decades, the TV S Apache series has evolved into a global community of over 5.5 million enthusiasts, making it one of the fastest growing premium motorcycle brands worldwide. Demonstrating its relentless pursuit of performance, the TVS Apache series stands as a testament to cutting-edge technology. Now, with the captivating new Black Edition of the TVS Apache RTR 160 series, it is set to appeal to our customers with a bolder and sportier look."

With its shiny black finish and completely new avatar, the bike

exudes a fearless and unstoppable spirit that sets it apart from the rest. The minimal graphics design with a black TVS logo embossed on its tank and blacked out exhaust, further enhances this stunning machine's aesthetic appeal.

Key Features of the TVS Apache RTR 160 4V

- Highest power in segment 17.6 PS
- Highest power-to-weight ratio
- 3 Ride Modes
- LED Headlamp with DRL

Key Features of the TVS Apache RTR 160

- 3 Ride Modes - Rain, Urban and Sport
- LED Headlamp

The Black Edition - TVS Apache RTR 160 series will be available at a special price of Rs 1,09,990 (ex-showroom Tamil Nadu) for TVS Apache RTR 160, and Rs. 1,19,990 (ex-showroom Tamil Nadu) for the TVS Apache RTR 160 4V.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Appoints Ketaki Bhagwati as an Independent Director on its Board

Chennai, May 22 2024: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited ("Bank") today announced the appointment of Ms. Ketaki Bhagwati as an Independent Director on the Bank's Board for a period of four years, effective May 18, 2024, subject to the approval of the members of the Bank.

Announcing the appointment, Mr. C S Rajan, Independent Director and Part-time Chairman, Kotak Mahindra Bank, commented, "We are elated to welcome Ms. Ketaki Bhagwati to the Bank's Board of Directors. Her extensive experience of over three decades in the banking and financial services industry will help the Bank achieve its growth objectives in the coming months and years. The Board looks forward to working together with Ms. Bhagwati and benefiting from her guidance in key business segments."

Ms. Bhagwati

Digital Connexion and DE-CIX accelerate enterprise digital transformation in India with new high-speed connectivity offerings at Chennai data center

Chennai, May 22 2024: Digital Connexion, a full spectrum provider of highly-connected and scalable data center, colocation and interconnection solutions, and DE-CIX India, the largest carrier and data center neutral internet exchange (IX) operator in the Indian market, today announced a strategic partnership to provide internet peering and interconnection services to Indian enterprises. As part of this collaboration, DE-CIX has established a new point-of-presence (PoP) at Digital Connexion's state-of-the-art MAA10 data center in Chennai.

The strategic partnership between DE-CIX and Digital Connexion brings significant benefits to enterprises, cloud and content providers, and internet service providers (ISPs) in the southern India region. Companies hosted at MAA10 can now take advantage of expanded high-speed interconnection capabilities with enhanced network performance, cloud connectivity and internet peering services. DE-CIX's presence at MAA10 will



currently serves as an Independent Director and Senior Advisor, providing leadership in strategy, business development, governance, financial credit, and risk management. She is an Independent Director on the Board of Bayer CropScience (India) Ltd and has previously served on the Boards of Axis Bank Limited, Omniae Health Technologies Pvt. Ltd, and as a Nominee Director of IFC on the Board of Tikona Infonet Pvt. Ltd.

Before her board roles, Ms. Bhagwati was the Chief Investment Officer in

the Financial Institutions Group at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), where she worked for nearly twenty-five years, specialising in private equity, mergers & acquisitions, debt & structured finance, and distressed asset workouts across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. She began her career at Credit Rating Information Services of India (CRISIL) in Mumbai.

Ms. Bhagwati is a member of the Investment Committee at Encourage Capital, a US-based impact fund focused on investments in India.

She is also a Senior Advisor to the South Asia Center at the Atlantic Council (USA), focusing on major economic policy issues in India, and supports women leaders in business as a member of the Wellesley College Business Leadership Council.

Ms. Bhagwati holds a Master of Public Administration in Economic Development & Finance from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wellesley College.

Ms. Bhagwati added, "I am honoured to join the Board of Kotak Mahindra Bank, a leader in India's banking sector. I look forward to contributing to the Bank's strategic vision and working with the distinguished members of the Board to drive sustainable growth and innovation."

Fastrack launches Fleek: The Party-Ready Watch Collection That Turns Heads A Surreal Campaign Film Sets the Stage for Fashionable New Designs

Chennai, May 22 2024: India's iconic watch and accessories brand, Fastrack, unveils its electrifying new collection, 'Fastrack Fleek' with a campaign film that bursts with energy and attitude. The collection features 17 watches which fuse different eye catching elements, adding a dash of style and flair to every look.

The campaign film is set in a surreal world, with dynamic visuals inspired by the shapes and facets of the watches. The video is a visual feast, featuring a mix of life size props, dynamic camera movements and a lively



choreography that reflects the brand's 'Seriously Playful' attitude. It features the protagonists interacting with the bold shapes and each other in a fresh way while making a serious style statement.

The Fastrack Fleek watches are absolute head-turners! The men's watches feature unique case shapes, edgy grooves on the dials, and

an innovative sub dial layout that gives them a dapper yet unconventional look. The women's series is a story in glamour with studded embellishments on both the dial and bracelet, instantly grabbing the spotlight. With the sleek mesh strap and vibrant color combinations, the collection has a perfect match for any outfit.

Fastrack Fleek is the ultimate fashion accessory to flaunt your fashion quotient this season. Whether you're hitting up brunches, ruling the dance floor, going on dates, or just slaying everyday life, these watches dial up your look. With prices starting at Rs 2795 and going up to Rs 6195, the collection has something for every budget and style preference.

Get your Fastrack Fleek watch and own the party scene. Visit your nearest Fastrack store, shop online at <https://www.fastrack.in/>, or find us at Titan World and other authorized dealers nationwide.

Strengthening Safety Measures Southern Railway GM Inspects Elephant Underpass in Palakkad Division

Chennai, May 22 2024: In a significant initiative aimed at mitigating the risks associated with elephants trespassing onto railway tracks, Shri R. N. Singh, General Manager of Southern Railway, accompanied by Shri Arun Kumar Chaturvedi, Divisional Railway Manager, Palakkad and other Railway Officials conducted a comprehensive inspection of the entire elephant corridor between Madukkarai and Kottekkad stations on 18th May 2024.

In the previous week General Manager, Southern Railway had sanctioned the work of installation of "Elephant Intrusion Detection System" at a total cost of Rs. 15.42 crores, to be installed in the entire elephant corridor covering both A & B lines between Madukkarai and Kottekkad stations of Tamil Nadu and Kerala states.

"OFC based



Distributed Acoustic Sensing with AI based Elephant Intrusion Detection System" detects the elephant intrusion near railway track and generate necessary audio/visual alarms to station masters and loco pilots in real time and the speed of the train can be controlled. Thus the life of elephant may be saved, possibility of derailment and disruption of train operations, associated hardship to passengers can be avoided.

Working principle and technology used: The system uses the "OFC based Distributed Acoustic Sensing with AI" as the core technology. The

inspection he said that Southern Railway is making all efforts to complete "Elephant Intrusion Detection System" as soon as possible. It is pertinent to mention that Southern Railway has built two underpasses costing Rs. 11.53 crores between Walayar and Ettimadai stations recently to facilitate the safe passage of elephants.

The General Manager also reviewed the progress of other associated works such as widening of cutting and widening of embankments which will facilitate the elephants to walk away from the track, cleaning the vegetation near the track to prevent the elephants coming closer to the track for food, and solar lighting for improving the visibility for the Loco Pilot / Asst Loco Pilot onboard to spot the elephant at a distance during night, etc.

working principle of the system depends on the change in pattern of laser pulses in the optical fibre. Measurement of time delay between sent and received laser pulse decides the location of the event. Identification of the event is done by measuring the modulation in the back scattered light signal.

Shri R.N. Singh, General Manager of Southern Railway inspected the recently built second elephant underpass between Walayar and Ettimadai station of Tamil Nadu state along with the officers of Palakkad division. During his



also address low-latency edge requirements and ensure seamless content delivery to the last mile through a robust footprint of networks. This will empower enterprises to accelerate their digital transformation and elevate the customer experience.

With DE-CIX's multi-service interconnection platforms, customers can now access a range of services including connectivity to hundreds of local carriers, ISPs, and content and application providers, without having to establish

direct, separate connections with each network. With DE-CIX DirectCLOUD, Digital Connexion customers can reach global cloud providers including Microsoft Azure, AWS, Google Cloud, and others through a single point, thereby eliminating direct connection costs. Moreover, MAA10 customers will also have access to a global data center platform through Digital Realty's PlatformDIGITAL®.

CB Velayuthan, Chief Executive Officer of Digital Connexion said, "With the Indian economy undergoing digitisation across many

sectors, the demand for

next-generation infrastructure has become paramount. Through our partnership with DE-CIX, we enable this digital transformation in a way that is efficient, dynamic, and well-positioned for future growth. Aligning to our vision of creating a data meeting place for digital communities, this collaboration offers our customers a variety of interconnection services and single-hop direct connectivity to multiple cloud providers, fostering a connected ecosystem."

Sudhir Kunder, Chief Business Officer of DE-CIX India said, "We are excited to be expanding and adding a great new partner, Digital Connexion. The collaboration offers the market a new and ideal diverse solution, as well as a great place for both enterprises and ISPs to leverage connections to a leading carrier-neutral global data center platform with the most cost-effective and efficient interconnection options available in the market. This partnership will be the fourth PoP for DE-CIX Chennai, which brings the total to 20 PoPs pan India."

L&T Finance Ltd. launches 'The Complete Home Loan' in Chennai

Chennai, May 22 2024: L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF), one of the leading retail financiers, has launched 'The Complete Home Loan' for the customers of Chennai with all the support they need to fulfil their dream of owning a home. 'The Complete Home Loan' is offered through a Digitized Process along with a Dedicated Relationship Manager and comes with the option of a Home Décor Finance.

A Home Décor Finance aims to provide flexibility and convenience in acquiring essential furnishings for a comfortable living space. The Digitized Process simplifies the journey of availing the loan with tech intervention. And the Dedicated Relationship Manager serves as a point of contact for the customer throughout the loan process ensuring a smooth and satisfactory experience.

To promote its latest offering, the Company has unveiled three new TV commercials in Tamil. These commercials cleverly



blend humour and relatable situations, with the tagline, 'Kum Nahi, Complete'. The first TV commercial introduces 'Home Décor Finance,' while the second and third highlight benefits like 'Digitized Process' and 'Dedicated Relationship Manager.'

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjay Garyali, Chief Executive - Urban Finance at LTF said, "Chennai is a key market for us, and through the launch of 'The Complete Home Loan', we are primarily targeting new home buyers seeking fresh Home Loans for both under-construction and ready properties. By understanding consumer behaviour, we are proud to offer the research-driven proposition 'The Complete Home Loan' by LTF will meet that is aimed at providing a holistic solution to customers. In

addition to the highlighted features, key value-added features like paperless processing, hassle-free documentation, and best service standards are coupled with attractive interest rates. We believe that our tailored solutions will aid consumers in financing their additional home décor needs seamlessly. Through our offering, we will be able to provide our customers with the flexibility and convenience that they deserve for comfortable living."

Ms. Kavita Jagtiani, Chief Marketing Officer at LTF said, "When it comes to Home Loan, customers look for a one-stop solution to address all their financing needs but often settle for less. 'The Complete Home Loan' by LTF will meet customer expectations by addressing their needs and combining

benefits like Home Décor Finance, Digitized process, and Dedicated Relationship Manager. Hence, we have introduced the proposition of 'Kum Nahi, Complete'. In Chennai we have launched our TV commercials in Tamil to communicate our offerings by taking a humorous approach, and we believe we will be able to connect with the audiences on a deeper level and make Home Loans more accessible."

As part of the campaign, the Company is one of the co-presenting sponsors for IPL, and the TV commercials are being streamed on Jio Cinema (Connected TV) during IPL matches. The Company will advertise on prominent news channels during the pre-election results and on poll counting days. The Company has also launched a digital campaign across various social media channels.

Additionally, the LTF brand is being featured on outdoor hoardings in Chennai and many other cities in India.

Nissan launches the most accessible & premium variant under INR 10 lakh, the Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition

Chennai May 22 2024: Building upon the resounding success of the 2023 Magnite GEZA Special Edition, Nissan Motor India today introduced its big, bold, beautiful SUV, the Nissan Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition, at a starting price of INR 9.84 lakh. Driven by the overwhelming response from the 2023 GEZA Special Edition and coupled with extensive customer feedback, the Nissan Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition has been launched on the 1st year anniversary of the GEZA Special Edition.

Inspired by Japanese theatre and its expressive musical themes, the Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition is designed to offer a special package for music enthusiasts by offering bigger infotainment features and a premium speaker system that delivers an enhanced sensory experience.

For the first time since its launch last year, the Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition will offer a range of infotainment offerings,



making it even more appealing to consumers. This is Nissan's most accessible and premium CVT Turbo in the B-SUV segment, offering the best value for money.

It is equipped with a host of innovative features which include:

- High-resolution 22.86cm touchscreen
- Android CarPlay with wireless connectivity
- Premium JBL speaker system
- Rear camera with trajectory line
- Ambient lighting with Nissan app-based controls
- Premium beige coloured seat upholstery as optional
- Unique GEZA Edition badge

This is the most advanced infotainment offering among all

Nissan Magnite CVT variants.

Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL), said, "We are delighted to introduce the newest variant of the Magnite following the tremendous success of the GEZA Special Edition last year. We have identified a significant opportunity based on customer feedback in the market to offer premium features at an accessible price point."

"The Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition is the only CVT Turbo available at such a competitive price with features that no other product offers in the market. It underlines our commitment to delivering best-in-class technology, premium features and advanced infotainment offerings at an accessible price."

The Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition comes with a rear-view camera with trajectory guidelines and best-in-class screen response, which ensures greater safety and convenience, better drive visibility, and a clearer view of obstacles. Available at an accessible price range of under INR 10 lakh, it is available exclusively in the HR10 Turbo CVT lineup, catering to customers who seek advanced infotainment offerings.

The success of the previous 2023 Magnite GEZA Special Edition is a testament to Nissan's dedication to meeting customer demands and driving innovation. The Magnite GEZA CVT Special Edition enriches this legacy with its advanced technology, affordability, and unmatched value for Indian customers. The Magnite GEZA CVT Edition is the big, bold, beautiful SUV that is redefining 'value' in the B-SUV segment.

For more details please visit: <https://www.one.nissan.in/book-a-car>.

Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' Conducts First Ever Design Thinking Workshop to Develop Problem-Solving Skills in School Students

Chennai, May 22 2024: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has introduced the first ever design thinking & training workshop in select schools across the country. This unique initiative, part of Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme, focuses on enhancing essential skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, probing, and creativity among students through the Human-Centered Design Thinking framework. The national education and innovation competition aims to foster a culture of innovation amongst the next generation.

Tailored specifically for India, the one-day workshop has been conceptualised to encourage students to appreciate the idea of design thinking and nudge them to identify and solve real-world problems. As part of the academic curriculum, Human-Centered Design Thinking is a powerful practice for solving-problems.

Using processes and tools from the design world, the-Human Centred Design framework impresses upon empathy, definition, ideation, prototyping and testing of a solution to improve the lives of users.

"Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is part of our vision to empower the next generation and create an ecosystem of innovation in the country. We believe that they are the flag-bearers of innovation and require nurturing from a young age. The design thinking workshops have been introduced as a pilot in 10 schools this year to motivate young students to execute projects, which involve problem-solving, collaboration, and creative thinking. Through these offline sessions, school students will get a unique opportunity to question basics, identify real-world issues and propose tech-based solutions", said SP Chun, Corporate Vice President, Samsung Southwest Asia.

This is how a one-day Design Thinking Workshop looks like:

-Introduction to Basic Concepts of Design Thinking

-Five Steps of Design Thinking Process

1. Empathy: Students engage in role-play and interviews, empathizing with various user types affected by real-world problems, exploring their experiences and perspectives.

2. Define: Through consolidated notes and guided discussions, students define the core issues using tools like the Problem Tree, identifying root causes and areas for intervention.

3. Ideate: Encouraging creativity, students brainstorm a multitude of solutions, embracing all types of ideas, before refining and finalizing inter-linked solutions through group collaboration.

4. Prototype: Students recap

prototyping methods and translate their chosen solutions into tangible storyboards, presenting their ideas for feedback and further enhancement.

5. Test: After building the solutions, feedback mechanism begins where user experience is taken into consideration and depending on the response; it is improved as per their satisfaction levels.

Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' ignites the passion for problem-solving, collaboration, and creative thinking among young minds. First launched in the US in 2010, Solve for Tomorrow is currently operational in 63 countries globally and has seen over 2.3 million young people participate worldwide.

Samsung Electronics' global CSR vision of 'Together for Tomorrow! Enabling People' is committed to providing education to young people around the world to empower the leaders of tomorrow.

Chennai, May 22 2024: The four-day long IndiaSkills National Competition 2024 concluded on Sunday with great fervor and enthusiasm at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka. The event, held from 15th to 19th May, brought together the brightest young minds from across the nation to compete and demonstrate their proficiency in a wide array of traditional and new-age skills. A total of 58 candidates across 52 skills will now train to represent India in WorldSkills scheduled to take place in Lyon, France in September 2024.

Odisha has the highest number of winners with 17 Gold, 13 Silver, 9 Bronze and 12 Medallion for Excellence, followed by Karnataka (13 Gold, 12 Silver, 3 Bronze, and 19 Medallion for Excellence), Tamil Nadu (6 Gold, 8 Silver, 9 Bronze, and 17 Medallion for Excellence), Maharashtra (3 Gold, 5 Silver, 6 Bronze, and 14 Medallion for Excellence), Uttar Pradesh (3 Gold, 3 Silver, 6 Bronze, and 16



Medallion for Excellence), Delhi (5 Gold, 3 Silver, 2 Bronze, and 10 Medallion for Excellence), Rajasthan (2 Gold, 5 Silver, 3 Bronze, and 9 Medallion for Excellence), Haryana (2 Gold, 3 Silver, 3 Bronze, and 13 Medallion for Excellence), Madhya Pradesh (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze, and 11 Medallion for Excellence), and Bihar (3 Gold, 1 Silver, 3 Bronze, and 6 Medallion for Excellence).

The closing ceremony was graced by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Padmashri Shri Ramesh Sippy, Indian Film maker and Chairman, Media and Entertainment Sector Skill Council; Dr.

Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, Chairman, National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET); Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, NSDC and MD, NSDC International, and Shri Aparshakti Khurana; Renowned Indian Actor, Writer, Singer, RJ.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE said, "Today, as we conclude IndiaSkills 2024, I am reminded of the exhilarating journey we have experienced, greatly supported and guided by MSDE and NSDC. I must say, the competition's design and execution were not only meticulous but also deeply appreciated by participants, mentors, industry professionals, and the public alike. With over 2,50,000 applications, an expanded range of trades, and a notable

increase in female participation, the scale of IndiaSkills 2024 is unprecedented. Yesterday, when I met the young participants, many of whom come from different backgrounds, I was struck by their skill, enthusiasm, and meticulous attention to detail across both traditional and new-age categories. I commend the efforts of our colleagues at MSDE and NSDC in organizing such a spectacular event and selecting the best talent to represent India on the global stage."

Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, Chairman, NCVET said that participants have excelled through district, state, and pre-national levels to compete on this prestigious stage. He is also looking forward to even more female participation next year. He also spoke about introduction of skills credits and certification, covering 61 skills, including 9 unique to India an initiative which not only recognizes the participants' hard work but also prepares them for future success.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship lays out framework for holistic development of trainers in the skilling ecosystem

Chennai May 21 2024: As 'Viksit Bharat 2047' envisions a completely developed nation by the 100th year of India's independence, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) aims to foster a dynamic workforce in an ever-evolving economy. To cater to this, the Ministry has laid out a roadmap where trainers from short-term and long-term skilling ecosystems will be equipped with the right skills and technology to help learners participate in the future market.

The MSDE's partner, Future Right Skills Network (FRSN) has drafted the "Trainer Development Strategy for the Skilling Ecosystem" which lays out a framework and guidelines for the development of the 21st century educator. It recommends that trainers integrate digital blended content into classroom learning using digital tools and resources.

The drafting of the trainer development strategy has been



facilitated by Quest Alliance and supported by FRSN, a collaboration between Accenture, Cisco, J.P. Morgan, and SAP. The initiative aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of nationwide trainers across sectors for long-term skilling. Additionally, the mentioned strategies will address the gaps in staffing and training capacity; shortage of qualified trainers in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector which impacts the quality and effectiveness of skill development programs; and reduce attrition of qualified trainers due to irregular employment, limited career advancement opportunities, and low pay. Moreover, the document also gives strategies to improve

the efficiency of existing trainers through recognition, performance evaluation, motivation, and up-skilling.

Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, "The Trainer Development Strategy for the Skilling Ecosystem - framework and guidelines - is a testament of the collaborative efforts of the Government, Industry and Academia which will pave the way for stronger skilling ecosystem with a holistic approach to trainer development. With the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in its tenth year, it is important to focus on the potential areas of development as much as it is important to relieve the

achievements. I firmly believe efforts such as these will consolidate on the good work that the Ministry is doing and will strengthen the ecosystem further."

The recommendations will be validated in different Indian states to gather the responses of trainers, learners, and other stakeholders of the skilling ecosystem before its large-scale implementation.

Adding to that, Aakash Sethi, CEO, Quest Alliance said that by integrating digital content and resources into classroom learning, we are ensuring that India's workforce is equipped with the skills required to thrive in the 21st-century economy. "We believe that this initiative will not only address the current gaps in the TVET sector but also pave the way for a more dynamic and efficient skilling ecosystem in India. Trainers must be prepared and ahead of industry trends to effectively equip the workforce with the skills needed to meet industry demands," he added.

IIFL Home Finance becomes India's leading affordable housing finance company with AUM crossing ₹ 35,000 cr and PAT increasing by 32% YoY

Chennai May 21 2024: IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) has seen its Asset Under Management (AUM) swell from ₹ 28,512 cr in FY23 to ₹ 35,499 cr in FY24, witnessing a 25% YoY growth, making the company India's largest affordable housing finance company with an average ticket size of ₹ 14.26 lac.

Basis the exchange reporting on May 6, 2024, the company with over 20% shareholding of Abu Dhabi Investments Authority (ADIA), saw its the revenue from operations rise from ₹ 2,712 cr in FY23 to ₹ 33,17 cr in FY24, recording a 23% YoY growth. The Profit After Tax saw a 32% jump from Rs 768. cr in FY 23 to Rs 1017 cr in FY 24. The NIM's saw an improvement of 80 bps and strengthened from 6.5% in FY 2223 to 7.3% in FY24, with capital adequacy ratio of 42.7%. The Gross NPA also saw over a 60-bps improvement from 2.1% in FY23 to 1.5% in FY24. The Company has the lowest cost to income ratios amongst all affordable housing

companies in the country.

Monu Ratna, ED and CEO of IIFL Home Finance, said "IIFL Home Finance remains committed to providing affordable home loans, particularly to EWS and LIG segments, with a focus on first time home buyers and women borrowers/co-borrowers. We have built a strong moat in India's mortgage lending space and our focus on operational excellence and technology led solutions have resulted in not only growth in AUM, increase in NIMs, reduction in credit cost resulting in better profitability but also fetching more customers who believe in us. The active customer base increased from 202885 to 281514 which reimposes customers faith in the organization and its offerings.

It's a privilege to have support of investors such as ADIA and DFIs such as DFC, IFC and ADB who have shown trust in us. In just a decade, we have grown from a sub ₹ 2,000 cr AUM to a ₹ 35,499 crs AUM today!

This reflects our commitment to attending to the underserved segments. Our financial performance is amongst the best in the industry, and the next 3 years will see an average growth of 20% in our AUM YoY, with a strong play of phygital operations."

Kranthi Namala, Zonal Sales Head - South, of IIFL Home Finance, said, "In coming years, while we plan to expand our reach with the use of our digital capabilities, we will focus on tapping the deeper geographies of the 17 states we are present in. We are also working on technological interventions which will help us built customized application process for customers from tier 3 and 4 markets, resulting in smoother customer experience and eventual lesser loan approval time. In FY24, in alignment with honorable Prime Ministers vision of Housing for All, we disbursed home loans to over 23,000 beneficiary led construction (BLC) households under

PMAY in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

In the FY25, we aim to cater to over 68,500 new customers, mostly first-time home buyers, through our strong branch network of 170 branches in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka."

IIFL Home Finance Ltd., a champion for sustainable housing practices, also secured a total funding of over \$ 450 million in FY 23-24 from DFIs such as U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), International Finance Corporation (IFC), and others to support affordable and green housing for low-income and economic weaker sections. This not only reinforces IIFL HFL as a leading affordable housing company but also aligns with the government's vision of Housing for All, promoting financial inclusion, environmental and social responsibility, and will be instrumental in addressing the affordable housing gap in India.

Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt. Ltd. (RNAIPL) Recognised by CII for Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Excellence and Water Management

Chennai May 21 2024: Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt. Ltd. (RNAIPL) received the prestigious Platinum Award for Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Excellence and Gold Award for Water Management at the 16th edition of the Confederation of Indian Industry-Southern Region Environment, Health, and Safety (CII-SR EHS) Excellence Awards. The ceremony, held in Coimbatore on 15 May 2024, acknowledged RNAIPL's commitment to EHS practices in its Chennai plant.

This recognition underscores RNAIPL's outstanding efforts and remarkable progress made over the years in EHS, implementing



best practices, and consistently prioritising safety and sustainability. Moreover, the award also recognises RNAIPL's significant initiatives in water management, highlighting the company's proactive approach towards adopting sustainable water conservation and management practices. This acknowledgment reflects RNAIPL's commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible resource utilisation.

"RNAIPL remains committed to upholding the highest EHS standards.

Receiving the Platinum Award for EHS Excellence and the Gold Award for Water Management at the CII-SR EHS Awards reflects our dedication to excellence in environmental, health, and safety practices. We take pride in the progress we've made over the years in promoting a culture of safety, sustainability, and performance. As we move forward, we remain focussed on setting new benchmarks and leading by example in EHS stewardship," said Keerthi Prakash, Managing Director, RNAIPL.

The CII-EHS

Flipkart IRIS Unlocks Deep Customer Intelligence, Empowering Brands To Bolster Their Business

Chennai May 21 2024: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, today announced the launch of its insights platform, Flipkart IRIS. The platform, which stands for Insights and Research Intelligence System (IRIS), signifies a substantial advancement in providing comprehensive intelligence about customer behavior to brands. Flipkart IRIS is designed to empower brands with actionable insights tailored to their performance on the platform, fostering growth and facilitating informed decision-making.

Flipkart IRIS will offer a significant leap forward in functionality and usability for brands on how Indian consumers interact with products and brands. It will serve as a magic mirror for brands, providing detailed reports to guide performance improvement across funnels. In addition to industry-standard comparative analysis and user behavior insights, Flipkart IRIS goes beyond offering exclusive reports which will allow brands to understand the high value actions of consumers for their



products on the platform. These reports empower all brands across their growth trajectory to gain a deeper understanding of consumer behavior and market trends, allowing them to make data-driven decisions that can significantly improve conversion rates and sales. Given the reach of Flipkart, cutting across tiers of cities and socio-economic backgrounds, these insights can help brands improve performance even in offline channels.

Homegrown D2C and new age brands will gain numerous benefits from Flipkart IRIS, such as uncovering new growth opportunities, mirroring the perception of brands, optimizing marketing campaigns, enhancing customer engagement,

and measuring brand health. Leveraging business intelligence and rich data, established brands will be able to deep dive into the funnel, where there is an opportunity for them to grow their business, measure their performance, stay competitive and craft strategies that meet their objectives.

Sandeep Karwa, Vice President, Flipkart Ads, said, "Flipkart IRIS represents a significant advancement in empowering brands to bolster their businesses and succeed on Flipkart. With Flipkart IRIS, we aim to provide brands with actionable insights about their business performance on Flipkart. By empowering brands to make strategic decisions backed by rich data, the platform

is poised to unlock unprecedented growth opportunities for brands on the platform. Retail media spends are only 15%-20% of digital AdEx in India, compared to 25%-30% in the US and 55%-60% in China. In the first quarter of 2024, digital AdEx in India increased to over 25-30%. Despite the rapid growth, the headroom to grow is tremendous."

Sandeep Karwa, Vice President, Flipkart Ads, is the newly appointed leader for Flipkart Ads. Over the past 12 years at Flipkart, he has been instrumental in shaping and scaling various business categories at Flipkart.

Retail media is the third big wave in digital after search and social across geographies. Advertising-led monetization is growing disproportionately in India. Brands use platforms like Flipkart to get discovered, to engage, and to retain their customers. Drawing on a deep understanding of consumer journeys—from discovery to purchase—sellers and brands get incrementality and measurability.