



LULU FINANCIAL GROUP OPENS HK OFFICE

Adeeb Ahamed, MD, LuLu Financial Group, along with Surendran Amittathody, VP-APAC, LuLu Financial Group; Priscilla Law, head of Financial Services, Invest Hong Kong; Rajiv Raipancholla, CEO, Orient Exchange; and officials from the Philippines Consulate General, Hong Kong, during the opening of the LuLu Financial Group's Hong Kong head office at Hankow Centre in Kowloon.

Unleashing the power of Indian classical music

DUBAI — The Indian Classical Festival is being organised in association with Rajalakshmi Fine Arts. Rajalakshmi Fine Arts was founded in 2003 by Dr Sathish Kumar, a specialist general and laparoscopic surgeon and a disciple of Carnatic music who believes in the healing power of classical music. Rajalakshmi Fine Arts has been actively involved in promoting classical arts. Over the years, Rajalakshmi Fine Arts show has evolved as a full-fledged festival showcasing the greatest music maestros and artists of India.

A three-day event showcasing the best talent from the Indian sub-continent and internationally known exemplary artists from India: Hariharan, Bombay Jayashri, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Unni Krishnan, Ranjani and Gayatri.

Hariharan is an Indian playback and ghazal singer, whose songs have been featured mainly in Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Bhojpuri and Telugu films.

He is an established ghazal singer and one of the pioneers of Indian fusion music. In 2004, he was honored with the Padma Shri by the Government of India and is a two-time National Award winner.



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“Bombay” Jayashri Ramnath is an Academy Award (Oscar) nominated, Indian Carnatic music vocalist and music composer. She is a disciple of violin maestro Lalgudi Jayaraman. She has performed at various festivals and venues all across India and in over twenty different countries.

Sanjay Subrahmanyam is a Carnatic vocalist from India. He was awarded the title of Sangita Kalanidhi by the Madras Music Academy in December 2015.

P. Unnikrishnan is a Carnatic vo-

calist and a national award-winning playback singer. He is a national award-winning playback singer for his debut film songs “Ennavale Adi Ennavale” and “Uyirum Neeeye”. These songs were composed by A. R. Rahman, with whom Unni Krishnan gave most of his memorable songs.

Ranjani and Gayatri have received multiple awards and recognitions throughout their career. In addition, various music personalities from all over India have recognised their talent.

Al Jalila Children's and Nickelodeon team up to raise asthma awareness

DUBAI — Al Jalila Children's, the first dedicated children's hospital in the UAE, teamed up with Nickelodeon, the number-one kids' network, to raise awareness among children and parents about the challenges of asthma. The initiative, in line with Nickelodeon's 'Viacommunity Day' global initiative, marked the occasion of World Asthma Day on May 1. Latest statistics show that around 600 million people around the world suffer from asthma.

Sponge Bob Square Pants, Dora the Explorer, and Shimmer and Shine, Nickelodeon's most beloved characters, visited Al Jalila Children's on May 1, surprised its young patients, and took fun pictures with them. The famous characters also distributed asthma leaflets to children and families that contained valuable information about asthma and how to deal with it.

Tracey Grant, vice-president Content and Channels Middle East, said: “Viacommunity Day is an important global initiative for Viacom International Media Networks, with offices



Sponge Bob Square Pants, Dora the Explorer and Shimmer and Shine visited Al Jalila Children's on May 1.

and employees participating in cities around the world to give back to their communities. Here in Dubai, we're very happy to be working with the Al Jalila Children's Hospital, using our favourite characters from the Nickelodeon brand to delight children here while raising awareness about World Asthma Day at the same time.”

Farhad Siddiq, director — Marketing and Communication at Al Jalila Children's, said: “It was always a

main objective for us at Al Jalila Children's to ensure that our young patients feel that, while being provided with world class paediatric health care, they are also in a fun and entertaining ambience. It very much helps with the healing process.”

“Asthma is a serious illness that mostly starts at early stages of childhood, and it's very important that we tackle this issue and raise awareness among all families.”

Masala King bags social entrepreneurship award

MUMBAI — Masala King Dhananjay Datar, CMD, Al Adil Group, Dubai, was honoured by Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Prathishthan recently, for his social entrepreneurship efforts, by being conferred with a special award.

He received the award from Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of India. The ceremony took place in Mumbai at Shanmugam Hall, Sion. Dr Datar got the memorable opportunity to share the stage along with other eminent recipients like Asha Bhosale, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Anupam Kher, Shekhar Sen, Yogesh Gaud, Rajiv Khandekar and Mary Behlihimji.

Expressing the emotions after receiving the award, Dr Datar said: “Non-residential Indians like me, while excelling high in our respective fields abroad, always cherish an adoring love towards our motherland. That is why we feel elated when our society honours us. I have received many national and international awards for my contribution to the business field, but for social entrepreneurship, this is the first one. It bears immense importance for me.”

He further said: “The Mangeshkar family, in every way, has been giving Maharashtra, the best of their best. Apart from entertain-



Dhananjay Datar receives the award from Nitin Gadkari in Mumbai.

ing the society with divine music, they have been active in social service and enrichment of our culture. Their noble philanthropic service has set a unique example for others to follow. Therefore, it is a blessing for me to receive this award. Secondly, I myself have got a lot of inspiration and encouragement from Pandit Hridaynathji Mangeshkar, when I

humbly started promoting Indian and specially Marathi culture in the Gulf countries. His words of appreciation boosted my spirit and enthusiasm to march forward in this direction.”

Datar is a well deserving awardee considering that he ensures farmer produce sale and employs rural youth from Maharashtra in supermarkets abroad.

Shahrukh opens new Kalyan Jewellers outlet in Bur Dubai

DUBAI — The Baadshah of Bollywood, Shahrukh Khan inaugurated a new Kalyan Jewellers showroom in the UAE amidst a sea of fans at Meena Bazaar.

The much awaited launch at Bur Dubai witnessed an unprecedented crowd and the appearance of Shahrukh Khan saw a gathering of thousands of people who had come to see their favourite star. He was accompanied by Kalyan Jewellers chairman and managing director T.S. Kalyanaraman and executive directors Rajesh Kalyanaraman and Ramesh Kalyanaraman for the inauguration ceremony and on stage.

A special stage was set up outside, next to the main showroom entrance and there was a thundering applause and loud cheering as Shahrukh Khan came onstage.

Speaking about the opening, T.S. Kalyanaraman said: “It is a very exciting moment for us as we have opened a new Kalyan Jewellers showroom in the UAE. I take this opportunity to thank Mr Shahrukh Khan for gracing this occasion and believing in the brand ethos of Kalyan Jewellers. This underscores the overwhelming love and support garnered from those



Second from left: Karthik. R, managing director Kalyan Developers, Ramesh Kalyanaraman, T.S. Kalyanaraman, Shahrukh Khan and Rajesh Kalyanaraman (extreme right).

associated with the brand. We continue to remain committed to bringing in unique brand experiences and are humbled by large number of people who came to witness the launch today.”

The new Kalyan Jewellers showroom is located at the Salma Bint Rashid Al Zaal Building, Souk Al Kabeer Street — Meena Bazaar, Burdubai. Shoppers at all Kalyan Jewellers showrooms in the UAE

will be able to avail of the ongoing festive offer that guarantees shoppers assured gifts* and participate in the ongoing “Win 25 Mercedes Benz” global campaign.

The new Meena Bazaar showroom has an exclusive section displaying Kalyan's new brand Muhurat which is the wedding collection spanning a wide range of exquisite bridal jewellery including stunning polki pieces.

Prism's CEO wins BNI awards

DUBAI — Amit Vardhan, CEO of Prism Advertising, won Member of the Year Award for year 2017-2018 and 8 more recognitions in BNI Middle East Awards Ceremony held at Marriott Hotel Jaddaf, Dubai on May 3, 2018.

Business Network International (BNI) is the most successful organisation of its type in the world; there are currently over 8,000 chapters in operation in over 73 countries with over 210,000 members.

The organisation was founded by Dr Ivan Misner in 1985 and has grown around the globe in the last 3 decades. The concept was introduced in the Middle East by Bijay Shah and his wife

Anuradha Shah who are the National Directors of BNI in Middle East and Africa in 2005. Since its launch in the Middle East the organisation has over 500 business professionals as members from diverse fields.

BNI teaches business people that networking is more about farming than it is about hunting. It is about developing relationships that result in referrals for each other.

The philosophy of BNI is summed up in 2 simple words, “GIVERS GAIN” — If you help others to win business, they will want to help you win business. As they say that “what goes around comes around”.



Amit Vardhan

India's automotive component industry charms global market

Deepa Narwani

DUBAI — Known as India's ‘Sunrise sector’, the automotive industry had an impactful presence in Dubai at the recently concluded Automechanika 2018.

The Middle East has a number of vehicles running in the region resulting in constant wear and tear, and according to Vinnie Mehta, director-general, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) this offers a unique opportunity for Indian automotive component companies to tap into the market.

Mehta told *Khaleej Times*: “We were delighted to have over 100 companies participate at the India

pavilion, which is the joint effort between ACMA and Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EPC). It was last year that we started presenting a ‘one India entity’, and I think it has done very well for us as an industry.”

He highlighted that the GCC is an important market for India's automotive industry, as it allows access to a whole host of countries right from the Middle East, Pakistan, and Iran to Iraq, as well as the African countries.

“India is world number one in tractor manufacturing, world number one in two-wheel manufacturing and world number four in car manufacturing, making it a global industry. India's automotive industry recently became the world

number four. Our vision is to be among the top three globally in the next 10 years. Since the industry has consistently been contributing with a significant multiplier effect to the entire economy, it is rightly referred to as the ‘Sunrise sector’ and I hope it continues to be sunny!” he shared.

In terms of supporting the economy, the auto component industry contributes more than two per cent to India's GDP, Mehta emphasised. “We contribute 4 per cent to the overall exports, employ around three million people and our turnover is more than \$43 billion. Also, the industry is keeping pace with rapid developments and is building its technological competence,” Mehta said.

Most of the Indian auto compo-

nent companies have a strong focus on quality and have an ISO9000 and ISO/TS 16949 certification. A number of these are also proud recipients of the Deming award, which is the world's topmost quality award. The industry also follows the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) for emissions, environment or safety.

Looking ahead, Mehta commented on the Automotive Mission Plan that is looking to make the automotive component industry a \$200 billion business by 2026. He concluded: “Our bedrock is QCD — Quality, Cost and Delivery. In the future, we need to focus more on innovation, position ourselves smartly, and the world market is ours to capture.”

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Vinnie Mehta and Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai, inaugurate the India Pavilion at Automechanika 2018.