



India is important in the growth plans of global engineering, architecture and consultancy company **Ramboll**, says its new country director **Vidya Basarkod**. “This gives me a high degree of confidence to take on this role for the next phase of our strategic journey, with a stronger focus on our customers and our transformation,” she adds. The 75-year-old Danish company, which employs 16,500 people in 35 countries, has been present in India since 1997 and has nearly 1,300 employees here, providing multi-disciplinary solutions for structural engineering, buildings, transport, telecom, environment and health, and energy and oil and gas services. “Our business in India is of strategic importance to Ramboll globally,” says Richard Beard, managing director, the Middle East & Asia-Pacific region and global buildings business, Ramboll. Basarkod, a civil engineer, who joined Ramboll in 2016, to drive the engineering centre that acts as the powerhouse of engineering excellence for the company’s global businesses, will be responsible for executing its India’s business strategy, key account management and leading cross-functional collaboration. She will also continue to serve as the director of the Gurugram-based engineering centre. ♦

With the world facing an unforeseen pandemic, **CSS Corp** has ensured that it has created a consistent and vibrant culture across the organisation, to encourage and comfort its employees, informs its chief executive officer **Manish Tandon**. “We also provided seamless and constant communication,” he adds, in response to the California, US-headquartered IT services and technology support company having won the gold in the ‘Most Resilient Company of the Year 2020’ category in the 10th Annual Best in Biz Awards. “This award reflects how we



ensured zero impact to our clients and 8,000-plus employees around the globe employees,” he contends. The company

implemented a three-phased resilience framework of ‘prepare, stabilise and thrive’ to create a cohesive and structured blueprint, as well as a five-pronged strategy called **CHEER** - Communication with employees, Highlighting accomplishments, Energising teams, Engagement with employees, and Recognition of achievements for employee well-being. The awards, being given since 2011, are judged by a who’s who of prominent reporters and editors from top-tier publications from North America and around the world, from Associated Press to the Wall Street Journal. ♦

An Ahmedabad-based technology start-up is aiming at a \$-1 billion sales target by 2025 for its electric vehicles and a range of energy solutions. “Our focus will be on designing and engineering products and services suited for the Indian user,” says **Mohal Lalbhai**, founder & CEO, **Matter**, which has since inception a year ago, invested extensively in R&D for development of platforms for these products. “We will make mass-premium electric motorcycles, for which all the powertrain components have been designed in-house and sourced locally,” says Lalbhai,

adding that its plant will have an initial production capacity of 60,000 units per annum, to be scaled up later. “We will launch our motorcycles in the last quarter of 2021.” Matter is also producing battery packs for in-house consumption and will supply these to customers in non-compete EV segments and storage applications. It will also offer both consumers and enterprise clients a range of energy storage products and solutions, including large-scale energy storage applications like solar home lighting systems, home inverters and UPS systems. While Lalbhai belongs to the eponymous



industrial family in Gujarat, Arun Pratap Singh, his COO, is an IIT K and IIM A alumnus and former head of YObyses. ♦



Being inclusive is what makes **Syngenta**

successful, according to its India business head **Rafael Del Rio**. Speaking of the global science-based agriculture company’s decision to extend medical insurance coverage to the partners of employees from the LGBTQ, he says: “This demonstrates our leadership’s commitment to making Syngenta India a truly inclusive and diverse organisation. Having an environment where every voice counts has helped us to create a competitive advantage. We need to keep pushing ourselves in this direction.” The earlier policy provided medical insurance coverage only to its employees, along with the spouse and two dependent

children. The amendment will now cover the partners of employees from the LGBTQ community, too, which he describes as an essential step towards inclusivity. This is the first move of its kind in the agriculture sector. Syngenta, which helps to improve global food security by enabling millions of farmers to make better use of available resources through world-class science and innovative crop solutions, has 28,000 people in over 90 countries working to transform how crops are grown. “We are committed to rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalising rural communities,” Del Rio adds. ♦



Accessibility, convenience and, most importantly, safety are being enhanced thanks to **UST's** new frictionless shopping solution, according to the

digital transformation solutions company's senior director **Mahesh Athalye**. "Our Walk-In, Walk-Out empowers companies to drive and reap the rewards of new technology and its impact on their bottom lines," he says. With the Covid-19 pandemic having changed the in-store retail experience and consumer buying patterns permanently, UST's new contactless solution gives customers a seamless shopping experience that allows them to walk into a store, grab their items and immediately walk out. The technology behind this is a unified integration of Artificial

Intelligence (AI), sensors, and cameras working together to enable the core features. Customers enter the store by scanning a QR code in the mobile app, selecting desired items from the shelves, and thereafter exiting the store, receiving their digital receipt in a matter of seconds. UST can install it and make it functional in eight weeks. "This solution can help maximise profits and improve customer experience as a result of the 24x7 access and the abolition of checkout lines," Athalye explains. UST, headquartered in California, US, has 26,000 employees in 25 countries. ♦



"The year 2020 was unexpected for every sector," says **Mrityunjay Shahi**, founder & CEO, **SalaryDost**. "Though the Fintech sector seemed to be profitable, it faced a lot of challenges in the financial year. We are expecting a few key steps that should be taken by the Ministry of Finance in this financial year". Last year, the finance ministry had taken some beneficiary decisions, such as reducing the corporate tax to 22 per cent for domestic companies, which is the lowest in the world. SalaryDost was started with the aim to revolutionise small loan market of India. Till salary enters the customer's account, Salarydost.com plans to provide a simple small bridge loan to tide over the short difficult time. ♦

**Groupe Renault** globally premiered the Kiger in India. A brand-new compact SUV designed and developed for India before making its international debut, Renault Kiger is the latest in the line of revolutionary products to be launched by Renault in India. Just like Duster, Kwid and Triber, Renault Kiger will also change the dynamics in its segment and promises to be another game-changer from Renault. "Renault continues to move forward in India and has navigated the challenging macro-economic environment, bettering the industry trends," says **Venkatram Mamillapalle**, country CEO & MD, Renault India, commenting on Renault Kiger and the importance of the India market.



"We have managed this by our robust business strategy, which includes our exciting product range, laser-sharp focus on quality and customer centricity and our aggressive network ramp up across the country. Today, we take another major step in India with the global reveal of Renault Kiger, our all-new B-SUV, which will stand out as an excitingly sporty,

super smart and attractively stunning offering. Following Duster, which made SUVs accessible to a large set of people, not just in India but across the world, Renault Kiger will once again make SUV aspirations accessible to a whole new set of customers and we look forward to building on our increasing customer base with this new game-changer." ♦

**Barwings Hospitality** has announced the launch of 1873 The Taproom, Mumbai's newest Taproom and craft beer experience. Along with a fully stocked bar and great curated menu, this new outlet offers customers the brand's exclusive range of delicious in-house beers directly on tap. Founded in 2009 by hospitality veteran and award-winning mixologist **Ankit Negandhi**, Barwings has worked across all sectors of the Hospitality industry and with key brands, including Hilton, Marriott,



Mercedes Benz, Sun Burn, Supersonic, etc. "The launch of 1873 The Tap Room is the culmination of over 12 years

of hard work for my team and myself," said Negandhi, on the occasion of the launch of 1873 The Tap Room. "We began this journey with the Equestrian Life Style Resort and now opened a Tap Room that will showcase our exquisite range of craft beer to a city that, we feel, is in dire need of it. We have seen that Mumbai has started to accept craft beers and we feel that with lockdown restrictions finally lifting throughout the country, this is the perfect time to showcase our product and capture the attention

of consumers across the city." Negandhi has represented India in multiple mixology world championships, such as Bacardi Martini Grand Prix World Finals, the Asia-Pacific Cocktail Competition, the Hong Kong World Open and many more. Beginning with a bar tending academy and with the 1873 Equestrian Lifestyle Resort, Barwings has ventured into the set-up of their first Tap room, located in Vile Parle East, which will exclusively serve over nine variants of craft beers from breweries across Maharashtra. ♦