

Inauguration of Aryans Group's Media House



Pune (P&V news service):- Journalism is the fourth pillar of democracy and it is a very responsible job to run a media house with a mental vision. But is the current media really fulfilling its responsibility? first of all, there is a need for abuse of media rights or power. This expectation was expressed by the Minister for Social Justice, Dhananjay Munde.

Aryans Group of Companies' National Channel News Uncut, Marathi Cultural and Entertainment Channel Swarang and OTT World's Salt Pix joint media house was inaugurated on May 13 at Bavdhan on Mumbai-Bangalore Highway. Speaking to the media after the inauguration of the office, Mr. Munde further said that at present, the media is being used as a center of power or authority.

Democracy is strong in any country only when its media is independent and impartial.

There are some impartial media outlets in our country as is customary, but they are also plagued by prejudice and partisanship", he said. Meanwhile, the current

media seems to have weakened. That is why Aryans Media House needs to give a fair and credible introduction to the fourth pillar of democracy through an impartial letter for today's media to play an effective role in introspection and strengthening democracy.

On the occasion of the inaugural function, Aryans President Mukundrao Jagtap welcomed Minister Munde at the outset. Mrs. Smrita Shitole Jagtap, Executive Director, Ajay Jagtap, President of Oma Foundation, NCP city president and former mayor

Prashant Jagtap, ASM Group director Dr. Sandeep Pachpande, Akhil Bharti Chitrapat Mahamandal and Natya Parishad president Meghraj Raje Bhosale, Rakesh Bandal, founder of Lokshahi Marathi Patrakar Sangh Sachin Bombale, senior journalist Vivek Thackeray, MD of Axar Energy.

Triloknath Yadav had a special presence on this occasion.

Aryans Group Directors Sanjay Shendge, Nikhil Shitole, Manjiri Hagwane, Suresh Ranwade, Kamesh Modi, Vaishali Nanvare, Vaishali Walunj, Sneha Jagtap, Gorakh Pawar, Neha Jagtap, Kailas Bagav, Ashok Kamble, Mahesh Ranwade, Santosh Gujar, Sumit Ranwade, Kiran Lohar Praveen Wankhede, Nikhil Jadhav, Avinash Ubale, Praveen Kadam, Vilas Kondhalkar, Satish Patil, Gururaj Pote and Sandeep Raut worked hard to organize the program under the guidance of Amit Ranwade, Ishwar Waghmare and Kiran Kanade.



Dalmia Bharat Reaffirms Regional Commitment through Ongoing Maharashtra Investments



Pune (P&V news service):- Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (DCBL), a leading Indian cement major and a subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat Limited, has launched a customer offer on all its retail 'Dalmia Cement' brands. The company has reaffirmed its regional commitment through its ongoing investment of INR 929 cr for the revival, modernisation, expansion of 2.9Mnt cement manufacturing plant in Maharashtra. The company is now endorsing its sustainability commitment of RE100 by 2030 and Carbon Negative By 2040 through a planned Waste Heat Recovery System installation of ~10MW and installing advanced Green Fuel units. This investment is already helping generate around ~1000 direct and indirect employment opportunities across the state and adding

further value with skill creation, socio-economic development and lead to enhancement of environmental stewardship and sustainability. The company also plans to capitalize on its category-wide dealer and sub-dealer network, which is around 11,000+ strong in Southern & Western states of India, to ensure that the growing demand for India's biggest cement market, Maharashtra, includ-

ing Vidarbha, Marathwada and Khandesh regions, is being adequately met.

Commenting on the company's commitment to nation building through its investment in Maharashtra, Mr. Sanjay Wali, Sr. Executive Director DCBL said, "We are grateful to the Maharashtra Government for providing us with the opportunity to play an active role in the state's industrial and infrastructural progress.

As we invest in the state and participate in its economic growth story, we are confident that the employment generated through our investments and our social transformation initiatives will further lead to a progressive and self-sustainable ecosystem."

Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited has also introduced exciting new offers for its growing customer base in the west region. Customers in Maharashtra can now avail of the 'Every Home

Happy Offer' special deal, which is applicable on all retail 'Dalmia Cement' brands that provide strength, durability and is eco-friendly.

"Our discerning customers across west India are increasingly opting for construction solutions for their building requirements, be it commercial or personal, that doesn't just ensure foundational strength but also help sustain the environment for generations to come," said Mr. Sunil Aggarwal, Regional Director, South, DCBL. "We, therefore introduced this offer for our Independent Home Builders to reward them for placing their trust in our offerings and for supporting us as we strengthen our regional presence." Dalmia Cement (Bharat) is on an accelerated growth path through a mix of organic & inorganic opportunities. Through its investment in Maharashtra, the company is looking at expanding its operations while consolidating its position in its existing markets.

Pune leads in housing sales and new launches in Q1 2022

Pune (P&V news service):- CBRE South Asia announced the findings of its 'India Market Monitor - Q1 2022'. The report highlighted the growth, trends, and dynamics across various segments of the real estate sector in India.

According to the report, housing sales jumped nearly 13% Q-o-Q to more than 70,000 units in Q1 2022 and sales rebounded significantly by approximately 40% Y-o-Y. The affordable/budget segment's share in sales remained stable at 27% in Q1 2022 vis-à-vis Q4 2021. While sales in the

high-end category jumped to 23% in Q1 2022 as against 16% in Q4 2022, those in the mid-end segment dropped to 41% in this quarter. The premium and luxury housing segments also witnessed a slight uptick in sales on a Q-o-Q basis. New unit launches jumped by nearly 30% Y-o-Y to cross the 60,000-unit mark in Q1 2022. With shares of 43% and 30%, mid-end and high-end categories dominated new launches in the country. The report also highlighted that cities in the western part of the country continued to drive sales as well as unit launch-

es. Pune led housing sales in Q1 2022 with a 27% share, followed by Delhi-NCR (21%), Mumbai (20%) and Bangalore (14%). In terms of unit launches, Pune dominated among cities with a 29% share, followed by Mumbai (22%) and Hyderabad (20%). Speaking about the performance of the Pune real estate market, Mr. Ram Naik, Director, The Guardians Real Estate Advisory said, "Pune has huge potential as one of India's leading cultural and youth capitals. It provides a plethora of choices for home-buyers, ranging from affordable hous-

ing to mid-income, luxury and uber-luxury homes. The city also enjoys seamless connectivity to Mumbai and Bengaluru through the Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway. Being one of the largest IT, automobile and education hubs in the country. In addition, the favourable government policies along with the low interest rates have been the icing on the cake, especially these past few quarters. We foresee great real estate potential for Pune and are eager to contribute to this growth as the drivers of a new phase of home-buying in the city."

Mr. Rajendra Pate, President, NAREDCO Pune said, "The growing number of MNCs in Pune has boosted the city's employment rates resulting in an increased housing demand. The Pune Metro along with other infrastructure projects will ease the commuting and accessibility across the city. Other factors that contributed to improved market dynamics included a 50 percent cut in construction premiums payable by developers, low home loan rates, reduced stamp duty, discounted pricing and flexible payment plans."

Levo, the premier, world - class salon has opened its doors to Puneites at The Westin, Koregaon Park



Pune (P&V news service):- The luxury brand is spearheaded by Pranita Baveja along her team of professionals and lead international unisex hairstylists Mila Parkhina from Ukraine and Jason B. from USA. With over 20 years of experience, Mila has an in-depth understanding of how to artfully blend her European technical know - how and understanding of Indian ethnic charm into a unique style for both men and women. With over 10 years of experience, Jason understands the pulse of the youth and displays his skills and international training to help his clients express their attitude through their hair. He excels in creative color, cuts and hair tattoos for both men and women. Levo promises to offer a unique and unparalleled experience to all its customers.

The launch was attended by the veritable who's who of Pune which included celebrities, dignitaries and prominent personalities from various fields. Levo means to smoothen, polish, raise or uplift and this chic salon at The Westin promises and uplifting experience to its customers. Levo was established in 2010 and has its flagship outlet at NCR Gurgaon. Over the years, they have expanded their operations and successfully created a strong presence at prominent locations like W - Goa, Raffles Udaipur, Courtyard by Marriott, Aravali (NCR Faridabad) with more to follow soon. The next few months will witness a Levo Spa and Salon open up

across India every 45 days. After graduating in Business Management in 2005, Pranita took her first step in the travel industry as a young entrepreneur when she joined her family business as the COO, Travel Services International (TSI) and transformed the offline business online. She was instrumental in increasing the revenue of the company manifold, which eventually got acquired by Yatra.com. She took over Levo Spalon in 2020 and used her business development and management skills effectively, resulting in a complete turn - around of the business, despite the impact of the pandemic. Levo has reached great heights under her leadership by becoming a leading luxury brand in India having associations with the best international names in the industry. Pranita has orchestrated the expansion of Levo and has been successful in creating a national presence within a span of 2 years. Speaking at the glorious launch of the stunning Levo Salon & Spa at the Westin, Koregaon Park, Pranita Baveja, Levo's key curator and MD said, "Apart from being the largest city by area in Maharashtra, Pune is a very vibrant, cultural and fashionable city. I always wanted to create something special in terms of luxury for the people here and I could not have thought of a better address than The Westin, Pune. We have synergized to conceptualize something spectacular and I am confident that we will be able to establish an imme-

diate connect with the people here.

We have created a one - stop shop Spa and Salon experience which offers international hair designing along with other related services like make - up, dermatology, nail art, eye - lash extensions, micro - blading and semi - permanent make - up all under one roof, all of which is handled by a team of highly trained, experienced and committed stylists, technicians, doctors and therapists. What makes this launch even more special is that for the first time you will experience a cohesion of beauty and technology. We are introducing a 3D Hair Virtual Try On "which will give you a glimpse into the future in real time of how your hair color and / or hair effect will look before you actually get it done. As I have always believed, The future is NOW.

"Speaking about this association, Sudeep, GM of The Westin, Pune said, "We are delighted to launch the Levo "Spalon" in partnership with Westin's Signature Heavenly Spa at Westin Pune. We believe that much of the value of the spa experience comes not only from the facilities, treatments and products, but from having the time and space for silence, separation from technology and personal reflection and contemplation. "Our partnership with Levo reflects our commitment to wellness, the Heavenly Spa by Westin & Levo Spalon will allow you to refresh your mind and body with a personal sensory experience" he further added. Levo

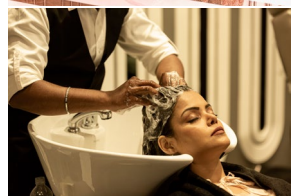


is made unique by its space, products, services and the team that delivers excellence ... every time.

• **Highly competent team of experienced stylists and therapists with a cumulative experience of over 400 years in the beauty industry**

• **Regular training sessions conducted for the team by leading companies and product brands from across the world**

• **A dedicated team of medical professionals**



looking after dermatology needs of clients



Jindal Mobilitric, Subsidiary of Jindal Worldwide Limited acquires Earth Energy EV

Pune (P&V news service):- Jindal Worldwide Limited, one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of denim, home textile, specialised fabric, technical fabric and intermediates, today acquired Earth Energy EV through its subsidiary Jindal Mobilitric Private Ltd. With the takeover, Jindal Mobilitric will take over the indigenously developed technology platform as well as Earth Energy's brands, the successfully launched Glyde SX and the Glyde SX+ variants of its commuter scooter as well as the Evolve R and the Evolve S commuter and cruiser motorcycles.

Jindal Mobilitric will benefit from Earth Energy EV's approach to build ground up using only indigenous components and Earth Energy's strong commitment towards building the Indian EV infrastructure ecosystem.

The Mumbai-based automotive start-up Earth Energy EV already has appointed distributors across 10 Indian states, these include Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka,

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, and these will be retained by Jindal Mobilitric while increasing the touchpoints thus strengthening the distributor network in each market.

As part of increasing and growing the manufacturing footprint, Jindal Mobilitric will set up a manufacturing plant in Ahmedabad which will supplement the existing Earth Energy manufacturing facility in Maharashtra. Earth Energy vehicles are compliant with all public charging stations being set up by both government and private players. The achievement of 96% localization in manufacturing and spares considerably brings down the cost of maintenance as well as availability of spare parts. This makes Earth Energy an attractive proposition for the modern commuter.

Speaking on the development Rushii Senghani, CEO and Founder of Earth Energy, said "We are very happy to work with Jindal Mobilitric,

as we move towards building a greener planet. We are confident with the way the Glyde SX & SX+ variants have performed. Our vehicles have been put through 7lak test hours and the confidence shown in us is commendable as we work together to build the Indian EV infrastructure that is a reliable and efficient modern scooter that is made for the modern commuter." Speaking on the takeover Mr.Gaurav Davda, Spokesperson on behalf of Jindal Mobilitric Pvt Ltd, Said "Electric is the future of travel and we are happy to announce our foray into the Electric Vehicle segment. This acquisition will ensure that we make a strong start in our EV foray. Earth Energy's team is innovative and bright and we are happy to be working with this talented team." Since its inception in 2017, Earth Energy has focused on the development of electric motorcycles, scooters, & autonomous vehicle drivetrains with a strong focus on localization and high-quality offerings.

Avanse Financial Services on a strong growth trajectory; set to grow at a CAGR 20-25% in the next 3-5 years

Pune (P&V news service):- Avanse Financial Services, India's new age, technologically advanced education-focused NBFC, announced that at the end of FY22, its AUM stands at ~₹4,836 Cr. During this financial year, the organisation witnessed the highest ever growth in its disbursement of ~₹2,927 Cr., 3.0x growth over FY21. Avanse reported a PAT of ~₹63 Cr., which indicates a growth of 1.7x over FY21. At the end of FY22, the net worth is ~₹1,010 Cr. The digitally agile company has been able to fulfil the academic aspirations of more than ~2.5lacs deserving students while continuing to strengthen the domestic education delivery system.

During FY22, as the economy rebounded, Avanse Financial Services geared up to the evolving demands of the student fraternity to pursue their pre-pandemic academic aspirations and prepared itself to cater to their unique needs and requirements. Technology-backed innovation coupled with agility enabled the

organisation to remain true to its commitment toward its customers, partners, employees and the education ecosystem at large. Amit Gainda, MD & CEO, Avanse Financial Services said, "The financial year 2021-22 had been a year of rebound, recalibration and restoration. The economy gradually opened up, and organisations across sectors geared up to meet the pre-pandemic consumer demand. Adequate and timely availability of credit has always been crucial to boosting the economy. Being an education financing organisation, we designed customised solutions for students to fulfil their academic aspirations, for professionals to acquire evolving skills and for education institutions to develop their infrastructural facilities. Thus, we have remained true to our commitment to fulfilling the right to quality education and contributing to the global economy in the long run. He further added, "We have witnessed different macroeconomic and geopolitical phases

during this financial year, which gave us the opportunity to calibrate our business processes and strengthen ourselves as a reliable and committed brand. Despite everything, we have experienced a consistent and strong sequential growth in our overall business performance. We are on a robust trajectory to grow at a CAGR of 20-25% in the next 3-5 years."

Avanse Financial Services' focused approach and consistent performance enabled it to receive recognition and appreciation from multiple esteemed organisations. The company had been certified as a Great Place to Work, a prestigious recognition bestowed on the company based on what employees had to say about their work experience. It has been recognised as the 'Best Brands 2021' by The Economic Times and won multiple awards such as Education Lending Company of the Year 2021 & Education Infrastructure Company of the Year 2021 by Quantico, and more.



Huge response to ‘Uday Utsav’ a Kathak and Tabla recital



Pune (P&V news service):- ‘Uday Utsav’, a classical dance and instrumental program conceived by famous Kathak dancer Mulla Afsar Khan, was organized at SM Joshi Hall, Navi Peth on the occasion of the birthday of famous Kathak dancer Pandit Rajendra Gangani of Jaipur family. Disciples of Pandit Gangani, Jafar Mulla Khan and Mulla Afsar Khan as well as director of Sanjog Tabla Vidyalaya Shankar Kuchekar and other tabla players enchanted the audience by performing their art in this program. The festival was inaugurated by Mulla Afsar Khan’s mother Jaibun

Mulla Khan with the lighting of lamps. The first session of the program started with Namami Shamishan Nirvan Rupam... a Shiv Stuti Composed by Pt. Rajendra Gangani. Deepali Raipure performed Pan-cham Savari and Ishwari Datar performed Rudrani Devi Stuti. Samruddhi Pujari and Maitrayi Nirgun performed Zhapatal, while Gitanjali Salunke and Shilpa Dharmadhikari performed ‘Radherani’. It was accompanied by relevant and skillful tabla by Shankar Kuchekar



and Prajwal Darade, while singing by Premraj Kadam and he was accompanied by Sudhir Tekale on harmonium. In the second session of the program, Unveiling of the logo of Kaladham, an organization founded by Mulla Afsar Khan was done by Pt. Avinash Belsare and Ustad Jafar Mulla Khan. The show was ended by Shankar Kuchekar’s solo tabla playing. He performed in dynasties in Tal Tintal from Delhi and Ajrada Gharana. He got the applause of the audience by presenting the Peshkaar, Kayde, Rele, Tukade, Mukhade, Gat, Chakradhars in a very unique style in the traditional way. He was accompanied by Sudhir Tekale. The program was moderated by Shraddha Rajwade.

Vijayi Bhav is a movie directed by Shailesh Patel, Releasing on 20 May, 2022



Pune (P&V news service):- Marathi film ‘Vijayi Bhav’ which is based on the game of Kabaddi, was released recently. Produced by Swastik Motion Pictures Productions and presented by Kenil Entertainment, this film is directed by Shailesh Patel and Atul Sonar. The film stars Indian Idol fame Jagdish Chavan and Pooja Jaiswal in the lead roles, along with Sonali Dalvi, Vinayak Ketkar, Jagdish Pawar, Vikram Mehta and others. Atul Sonar featuring Sonali Dalvi, Vinayak Ketkar. Apart from elections a candidate also has to win a Kabaddi match to become sarpanch. Nana Patil tries all possi-

ble dirty games to destroy current leader Madhav Rao Sardesai’s popularity to become the next sarpanch. Will he be the next sarpanch? The story of ‘Vijayi Bhav’ which will unfold various mediums like sports, love stories, politics, relationships and friendship, is written by Jagdish Pawar and scripted by Atul Sonar. Mukund Mahale has written dialogues along with Atul Sonar. Cinematography is by Lalji Beldar while choreography is done by Vikrant Dev, Nody Rasal, Ram Devan, Deepak Turi. The compilation has been done by Dharmesh Chanchadia, while the background music has been provided by Swapnil Nangi. The

lyrics written by Virendra Ratne have been composed by Kabir Shakya in the melodious voices of Jagdish Chavan, Kavita Ram, Manjima Goswami, Vaishali Made, Noora Singh Aade, Swapnali Chauhan.



BMW Motorrad appoints JSP Motorrad as its dealer partner in Bengaluru



Pune (P&V news service):- JSP Motorrad has been appointed as the second BMW Motorrad dealer partner in Bengaluru. The dealership is located at No. 162, Kathalipalya, 80 Feet Main Road, Koramangala 4th Block, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560034 and is headed by Mr. Sudarshan Ponraj, Dealer Principal, JSP Motorrad. Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, “BMW Motorrad delivers a promise not only of out-

standing products, but also of outstanding moments for a lifetime. Our ultimate riding machines are designed for all kinds of riding enthusiasts. Having set-up a robust dealer network in the premium segment, we are consolidating our presence further. We are thrilled to appoint the second BMW Motorrad dealership in Bengaluru with our trusted partner JSP Motorrad. The new facility will play an instrumental role in offering a personalised, emotional and

premium experience.” Mr. Sudharsan Ponraj, Dealer Principal, JSP Motorrad said, “We take great pride in our long-term relationship with BMW Motorrad and are thrilled to extend our operations to Bengaluru. We are excited to tap the increasing potential in Karnataka market. The launch of India’s first ‘Point of Experience’ dealership in Bengaluru will offer unrivalled sales, aftersales experience to riding enthusiasts.

Rugved Barguje emerges best rider of Round 2 as Petronas TVS Racing team dominates in Pune



Pune (P&V news service):- Pune’s former National champion RugvedBarguje mastered the 700-meter-long challenging track to win both races in the topmost Class 1 Category and emerged the best rider of the weekend evening in the second round of the MRF MOGRIP National Supercross championshipheld at the open ground next to passport office in Mundhwa. Rugved’s performance inspired Petronas TVS Racing team riders to do their best as they dominated most of the categories that will go in the long way to boost the team’s championship hopes when the season nears its end. On a balmy evening as the track was still being watered before the start of the evening extravaganza, Rugved took the sighting lap gingerly to access the track properly and once the Class 1 race be-

gan, he was the first to take the lead over his seasoned compatriot C D Jinan. The two kept themselves in the race avoiding to make any nasty manoeuvres specially on the section comprising , a 10 whoop de doos. Barguje, who has come back into competitive action after recovering from s major crash during Covid period while practicing, collected full 40 points to add to 37 points he earned in the first round in Nashik. Results: Class 1 SX1: Overall standings: 1. RugvedBarguje (on TVS-RTR 300) –team Petronas TVS, 2.Ikshan-Shanbhag (on TVS-RTR 300) –team Petronas TVS,3. C D Jinan (on TVS-RTR 300) –team Petronas TVS,4.V Prajwal (on TVS-RTR 300) –team Petronas TVS,5. Sholk-Ghorpade (on KTM 150) –Satara. Class 2SX2: Overall stand-



ings: 1.K Mnikaran (on Kawasaki KX 250)—Coimbatore,2. BhumikLalwani (on onkawasaki KX 250)—Mount Abu, 3. Ajay Srinivas (on KawasakiKX250)—Bangalore,4.SholkGhorpade (on KTM 150) –Satara, 5. Dwayne Johannes (on CR250)—Mumbai. Class 3Novice: Overall standings: 1.JerwaBuntelang (on TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS, 2. Sachin D. (on TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS,3. Arun T. (on TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS, 4. JinendraSangave (on TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS,5. Rajesh Swami (on Hero Impulse)—Pen. Class 4Locals: Overall standings: 1.JinendraSangave (on TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS, 2. Rajesh Swami (on Hero Impulse)—Pen,3. RusselJossy (on Hero Impulse),4. Pinkesh Thakkar (on Hero Impulse),5. Rakesh

Bhosale (on Hero Impulse). Class 5Indian experts: Overall standings: :1. Arun T. (on Hero Impulse), 2. R Natra-j (on TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS,3. D. Sachinlang (on TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS,4. . R. Sabrish (on Hero Impulse)—Coimbatore,5. Kalimohanon TVS-RTR 200) –team Petronas TVS,. R. Sabrish (on Hero Impulse)—Hassan,2. Shailesh Kumar (on Hero Impulse)—Coimbatore, 3. Yogesh P. (on Hero Impulse)— Bangalore,4. R. Sabrish (on Hero Impulse)—Coimbatore, 5. Pinkesh Thakkar (on Hero Impulse)—Pune. Class 7Junior SX1: Overall standings:1.Shlok Ghorpade (on KTM150)—Satara, 2. JinendraSangave (on

Kawasaki KX250) –Ichalkaranji, 3. Sujan j (on Kawasaki KX250) –Coimbatore,4. Anastypol (on Kawasaki KX100) –Bangalore,5. Faiz Sayyed (on KTM SX 85) –Pune. Class 8Junior SX 2: Overall standings:1.Akshat Hupale (on KTM SX 85) –Pune, 2. Bhairav C (on Hasquarna)—bangalore, 3. Sujan J (onKTM SX65) –Coimbatore, 4. Yash Shinde (onKTM SX65) –Pune, 5.Chaitanya Joshi (onKTM SX65) –Pune. Overall standings:Arun T. (on Hero Impulse) –Hassan, 2. Shailesh Kumar (on Hero Impulse)—Hassan.3.Yogesh P. (on Hero Impulse)—Class 6 Private experts: 1.Overall standings: 2. Overall standings:1.s, Rugved Barguje

Circle of Crust Launches Their Seventh Outlet in Dhanori, Pune



Pune (P&V news service):- The Pune-based pizza brand, Circle of Crust launches its seventh outlet in Dhanori, Pune. Launched in 2019, the brand aims at revolutionising your pizza-eating experience. The innate belief of providing their customers with fresh, premium quality and real ingredients is what keeps the brand inspired and motivated to serve only the best. Circle of Crust is expanding with the vision of providing nutritious, innovative pizzas with the best ingredients and an uncompromised taste. Circle of Crust is here to break the misconception that pizzas cannot be healthy with their tantalising guilt-free pizzas. They offer customers eight arti-

san thin crusts to choose from. With three vegetable-based bases like corn, beetroot, and spinach, a whole wheat base with the goodness of flax seeds, a multigrain base, and even three for those who are gluten intolerant, these crusts appeal to people with any dietary restriction. The vegetable bases also have 60 percent vegetables in them so you get wholesome goodness in every bite. Apart from pizzas, this multi-award-winning Indian chain offers salads, cheesy pasta, baked lasagnas, garlic bread, mock-tails and much more! For vegetarians, Circle of Crust offers Vegetale, Paneer Tikka, Mushroomza, Exotica Alfredo, and Veg Heaven. While meat lovers can sa-

vor Spicy Grilled Chicken, Chicken Tikka, Pesto Chicken, Chicken Alfredo, Fiery Chicken Pepperoni, and Chicken Kheema & Sausage pizzas. Neha Anand, Director of Kings Group Ventures said “I have made it my mission to provide an inclusive pizza experience for our diners through multiple gluten-free crust and vegan options. With a varied range of sauces and toppings, customers are spoiled for choice and can make their own pizza with their favourite toppings too. Circle of Crust always makes pizza but better with a focus on bringing desi flavours to the fore. As customers look to consume nutrient-heavy foods, Circle of Crust offers vegan pizzas as well as vegan side dishes. We have already expanded in Dubai and we definitely see ourselves as a global chain by 2025.” Address: Shop #10-11, Sky Max Apartments, Opp Goodwill Square, Dhanori. Time: 11 AM to Midnight.



Embassy REIT Expands Pune Footprint, Launches New Buildings totalling 0.9 msf given Anticipated Demand Rebound



Pune (P&V news service):- Embassy Office Parks REIT (NSE: EMBASSY / BSE: 542602) (‘Embassy REIT’), India’s first publicly listed real estate investment trust and Asia’s largest by area, announced today that it has successfully launched two office towers Hudson and Ganges, which upon deliv-

ery adds 0.9 million square feet (‘msf’) in the iconic Embassy TechZone spread across 68 acres in Pune’s Hinjewadi micro-market. Embassy TechZone currently has six operational towers of 2.2 msf which caters to the needs of 18 global and Indian occupiers and over 14,000 employees.

Vikaash Khdloya, Deputy CEO & Chief Operating Officer of Embassy REIT, said, “Back to office trends continue to be encouraging across our 33.8 msf operating portfolio. Pune is a key market to access talent for our global occupiers, and we are pleased to launch additional 0.9 msf which is currently in advanced stages of completion. We continue to be focused on growing our portfolio and operating income given the encouraging demand trajectory and are well placed to finance our growth given our balance sheet strength.” The new Hudson and Ganges office towers at Embassy TechZone, Pune are currently in advanced stag-

es of development completion, and are winners of iNFHRA Workplace Excellence award in Innovation Technology. Apart from state-of-the-art design, efficient floor plates, modern look and feel, these buildings are LEED Gold pre-certified and incorporate sustainability and employee wellness design aspects. The buildings are equipped with a zero-dis-

charge sewage treatment plant and have planned for electric vehicle charging points and rooftop solar panels to push towards our ‘75/25 Renewable’ energy plan. Current and announced infrastructure initiatives, including improved access through road and Metro, further enhances their appeal to employees and global occupiers.



Allora Café- Italian Dining

A Fine Italian Cuisine Escapade like Never Before



Pune (P&V news service):- Taking a trip to Italy for your summer vacation might not be getting checked off your bucket list, but bringing the Italian experience to Pune, is the newly launched bistro- Allora Café. If you have been craving some authentic hand-tossed pizzas and handmade pastas, this newly opened Italian bistro should be your first choice. Similar to the food that makes its way out of an Italian home kitchen, everything on the menu here is fresh, delicious and picturesque to say the least. The perfect warm and welcoming vibe at Allora Café is like visiting an Italian family. The space boasts of an open kitchen with an in-house hydroponics garden where you can pluck ingredients like basil, oregano or rosemary right off the plant onto your favourite pizzas or pastas enhancing the flavour and replicating a typical Italian household during meal times. Specialising in hand-rolled piz-

zas and pastas, the Napoli pizza with a thin crust and a fresh taste is hands down a must-try when you visit here. The idea for 15” pizza is to have families and /or friends share it and enjoy their time together. The Spokesperson of the brand, Mr. Prashant Issar says “Allora is an Italian Bistro and it represents a warm and welcoming dining experience. Our hydroponics garden symbolises the kitchen garden of an Italian family-run bistro. You can pluck a leaf of basil or just rub the fresh oregano/rosemary in the palm of your hand or drizzle it over your pizza or pasta and feel the freshness while also taking in its aroma and taste. Allora is a filler word in Italian and encourages conversations. Our intent is founded on the same principle.” Allora is owned by Bellona Hospitality (A hospitality arm of Phoenix Mills) Timings: 11am to 11:30pmAddress: Phoenix Marketcity, 207, Viman Nagar Rd, Clover Park, Viman Nagar, Pune,



Philips expands manufacturing and R&D facility in Pune, Maharashtra



Pune (P&V news service):- Royal Philips (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHIA), a global leader in health technology today unveiled the conclusion of 7,200 sqm expansion in its factory in Chakan, Maharashtra. The state-of-the-art factory now houses a total floor space of 11,700 sqm. and supports the MR Radio Frequency Coil, Mobile Surgery Systems, and Ultrasound assembly businesses amongst other activities. The expanded facility was inaugurated by Bert van Meurs, Chief Business Leader, Philips Image Guided Therapy, Arjen Radder, Business Leader, Philips Magnetic Resonance, Daniel Mazon, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Philips Indian Subcontinent and Peeyush

Kaushik, Head of Philips Healthcare Innovation Center, Pune. Following the expansion, the Chakan facility will carry out manufacturing, servicing, and repair of MR coils with significant global capacity, and is already providing a large volume of coils at the highest levels of global quality standards. In addition to the factory expansion, Philips also announces the acquisition of 10 acres of land to build a new R&D center to expand innovation capabilities in Pune to invest further in India. The current Pune R&D center supports global businesses for multiple product lines, including Image Guided Therapy, Precision Diagnosis and Connected Care.

As the Indian economy bounces back, Philips India continues to fulfil its purpose to improve people's health and well-being through meaningful innovation and supplying the right solutions and products for Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III markets. To aid this growth, Philips has hired over 3000 employees in India in 2021 during the Covid Second Wave. The firm has already presented 1,400+ job offers during the first quarter of 2022 and will continue recruiting talent this year. "The expansion of our Chakan facility is in line with our commitment to manufacture world class health care equipment in India. The new facility will provide us with India based manufactur-

ing assets to better respond to demands from both local and global geographies. We at Philips aim to boost growth in the healthcare sector with strong collaboration between public and private entities while catering to the need for critical care equipment. We remain aligned with the government's vision for Make in India" said Daniel Mazon, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Philips Indian Subcontinent. Peeyush Kaushik, Head of Healthcare Innovation Center, Philips, Pune, commented, "The expansion of our Manufacturing and Innovation center reflects the rapid growth in our ability to deliver multiple products and systems from Pune to India and globally. We meet some of the most stringent global quality standards at our plant and with the rich technology talent available in India, we aim to boost our innovation and manufacturing capabilities further to meet global demands." From Pune, Philips exports mobile surgery equipment to over 100 countries and RF Coils to multiple global Philips assembly plants. Philips also manufactures Ultrasound products for the Indian market from Pune, including the local 4 local advanced Affiniti Ultrasound.

Boeing and AIESL Announce Collaboration for Repair and Overhaul of key Indian Defence Platforms

Pune (P&V news service):- Boeing [NYSE: BA] today announced an effort to explore opportunities with AI Engineering Services Ltd. (AIESL) for the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) of critical equipment on key Boeing defence platforms in India, including the P-8I operated by the Indian Navy and the 777 VIP aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force. The collaboration was announced at the Boeing India Aatmanirbharta in Defence conference organized in New Delhi on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, with participation from dignitaries from the Indian Navy, AIESL, and other key supplier-partners.

"Our planned collaboration with AIESL could position us to provide significant value-add to our defence customers locally by enabling faster turnaround, exceptional operational capability and mission readiness for the Indian armed forces. This is also an important step as part of our commitment to the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision of making India a regional MRO hub," said Surendra Ahuja, Managing Director, Boeing Defence India. This collaboration would support the Indian Navy's growing P-8I fleet, building up the local aviation ecosystem, while ensuring quicker

turnarounds for the Indian Navy. It would also help build indigenous MRO capabilities as it would bring the P-8I landing gear repair and overhaul work to India for the first time. "Such collaboration would drive forward our vision for strengthening MRO capabilities in India, for India. We remain excited and committed as we provide critical support to India's armed forces as part of the Boeing India Repair Development and Sustainment (BIRDS) hub initiative," said Sharad Agrawal, CEO, AI Engineering Services Ltd. Boeing India's collaboration with AIESL would provide further impetus to the BIRDS

hub initiative, an in-country network and alliance of suppliers led by Boeing in India that envisions a competitive MRO ecosystem for engineering, maintenance, skilling, repair and sustainment services of defence and commercial aircraft. The hub has been growing capabilities in India in the areas of heavy maintenance, component repairs, training and skilling of MRO maintainers. An important aspect of BIRDS is training programs to increase skilled manpower by developing sub-tier suppliers and medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) to build high quality MRO capabilities in India.

Neuberg Diagnostics expands its footprint in Haryana with the launch of a new lab in Gurugram and touchpoints in different regions of Haryana



Pune (P&V news service):- Neuberg Diagnostics, India's one of the top 4 Path lab chains of Indian origin, with more than 150 labs and 2000+ touchpoints, today announced their expansion in Haryana, by launching own processing lab in Gurugram. Further to mark their path they are coming up with 10 express diagnostics labs and 100 touchpoints across Haryana. This latest expansion is well-aligned with Neuberg's commitment to improving access to the best-in-class testing facilities at affordable cost and giving a fillip to employment opportunities in the region. The new lab in Gurugram and other upcoming diagnostic labs will be wholly owned by Neuberg while the

100 touchpoints will be set up in the own or franchisee business model. The new lab in Gurugram is equipped to conduct and process wide variety of tests. Additionally, Neuberg as a group is equipped to conduct futuristic tests such as genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, molecular biology, and digital pathology with advanced systems like NovaSeq6000. This new lab is capable to process about 1000 samples in a day and deliver results within the given turnaround time which differs from test to test while maintaining the best-in-class quality. Dr. GSK Velu, Chairman and Managing Director, Neuberg Diagnostics, said, "At Neuberg, our strategic decisions are governed by our commitment to making state-of-the-

art technology and new generation diagnostics accessible and affordable to all sections of society. With our new lab in Gurugram, we are one step closer to achieving our mission of access & affordable diagnostics for all sections of population. Along with routine testing, we also focus on next generation techniques aligning with the latest treatment concept of personalized medicine. Therefore, we also concentrate on providing quality testing with advanced techniques to predict the genetic probability of various diseases such as neurodegenerative disorders, heart disease, and cancer through genomics." Shri. O. P. Dhanekar, President BJP Haryana and Former Cabinet Minister of Govt of Haryana, said, "The launch of Neuberg labs will allow us to boost healthcare facilities and a step ahead towards quality treatment because of their new age advanced testing process. This brings an excellent scope for people in Haryana to get access to quality healthcare with accurate diagnosis facilities. The aim is to produce strong outcomes in public health, hurdling India to one of the most advanced countries globally in

terms of management of public health outbreaks." At the launch event other eminent personalities like Smt. Madhu Azad, Mayor Gurugram Corporation; Dr. Virender Yadav, Civil Surgeon, Gurugram; Sh. Sudhir Singla, MLA, Gurugram; Sh. Rohan Jaitley, President DDCA; Dr. NPS Verma, IMA President; Dr. Sarika Verma, IMA Secretary; Dr. KS. Khokhar, Ex IMA State President, was present as the guest of honor. Neuberg will ensure a distinctive focus on advanced diagnostics at affordable costs, preventive diagnostics care, and a digital online presence to easy access & convenience in the state of Haryana. The company has already roped in MS Dhoni as its brand ambassador to create awareness for preventive care and early diagnosis to remain healthy. Currently, with more than 150 labs and 2000 plus touchpoints, Neuberg Diagnostics is present in India, the USA, the UAE, and South Africa. Neuberg is one of the top 4 diagnostics chains of Indian origin and has presence in almost all major cities and towns of the country with processing laboratories and/or sample collection facilities.

Swiggy Instamart to expand selection of fresh fruits and vegetables in Pune

Pune (P&V news service):- Instamart, Swiggy's quick commerce grocery service, today announced the expansion in the selection of fresh fruits and vegetables on the platform in Pune. To facilitate this, Swiggy is looking to onboard more local fruit and vegetable vendors from the city and surrounding locations. "As a service that brings the widest choice of grocery and other essentials to the doorsteps of consumers in minutes, Swiggy Instamart has very quickly grown to become the platform of choice for users in Pune.

Sahyadri Hospitals launches 'Mom Story' – complete care dedicated to women's health

Dedicated Centre for Women's health and Pregnancy & Child Care



Pune (P&V news service):- In a bid to increase thrust on women's health and make the journey of pregnancy more comfortable and cherished, Sahyadri Hospitals has launched 'Mom Story' bringing all the services and needs pertaining to women's health under one roof. The dedicated 'Mom story' centres will be operational at Nagar Road and Hadapsar Units and would include Obstetrics & Gynaecology, High Risk Pregnancies, Infertility treatments (IVF), New Born care (NICU), Child Care, Pre-marital Counselling, Clinical Care Guidance, Cosmetic Gynaecology, Water Birthing, Wellness programs for would-be moms and dads, Antenatal Care and Education, Lactation counselling, Diet Counselling & Obstetric Physiotherapy. Mom Story' will be First Hospital hospital in Pune to have a dedicated human milk bank catering to not only inborn neonates, but also extending services to other hospitals wherever required. The Mom Story launch was celebrated with various key opinion leaders. The program saw the unveiling of logo of Mom Story followed by felicitation of mothers from various walks of life. RJ Shruti and RJ Joanita shared

their stories. A panel discussion was organised on mother and new born child care in presence of Dr. Puranik, Dr. Suryavanshi, Dr. Aarti Rapal and Dr. Vaishali Chavan and was moderated by PULA ladies founder Sonia Agarwal Konjeti. Abrarali Dalal, CEO Sahyadri Hospitals and Dr. Ketan Apte, Vice President, Sahyadri Hospital were also present on the occasion. Ms Ishita Gurav, the first test tube baby delivered by Dr. Puranik was felicitated on Mother's day during the launch of Momstory. The 'Mom Story' team includes well-known gynaecologist and IVF expert Dr. Surpriya Puranik, Neonatologist Dr. Pradeep Suryavanshi, IVF expert Dr. Arti Rapal, gynaecologist Dr. Vaishali Chavan, experts in NICU, Paediatric care and trained support staff. Dr. Surpiya Puranik said that we must all get together to ensure the women at our home get priority to health. If she is healthy, she can look after the family well. We also felt the need to add some more delight to the journey of motherhood, make her feel special, make the journey special, because it is a life changing experience. It is a wonderful experience. With this thought we are introducing 'Mom Story'. Every single

women who gives birth at our hospital gives us everlasting memory, every memory is a wonderful unique story. We want to make every step in pregnancy comfortable for our Moms. Looking at the overall picture, we decided to come out with an end to end solution right for pre-marital counselling to best in class maternity treatments. Sahyadri Hospitals 'Mom-story' offers spacious OPD complex, Advanced Pathology & Diagnostic Services, Pharmacy services dedicated to Women Health, Women Wellness Programs, In-Patient facilities, Water Birthing Suites promoting Natural Birthing, all at one place. Our Mom story is just like the grandmother to be - always being with you all along right from counselling before marriage to witnessing the magical moment of the baby stepping into this wonderful world. Not to mention the celebrations that will follow including cake cutting, decorations, photo shoots - we will be there too! Dr. Pradeep Suryavanshi, Neonatologist, Sahyadri Hospitals said Our Level 3 NICU provides family-centered care for the most critically ill newborns with complex, critical care needs. Our team of trained Neonatologists are available 24/7 in the NICU to attend to the high-risk deliveries and emergencies. We have facilities to transport sick neonates (trained staff and ambulance with all required equipment) along with Perinatology services and fetal therapy unit. Going further, Our Child Care services are backed by Pediatric

Subspecialties like Pediatric Surgery, Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Hematology and Radiology. Abrarali Dalal, CEO, Sahyadri Hospitals said that Sahyadri Hospitals has been in the forefront of many initiatives, throughout its journey of about two decades, it has many firsts to its credit. Whenever we have any new medical initiative, our thrust is not only on technology and efficient healthcare delivery, but also the comfort and emotional support that the patient requires. 'Mom -Story' is a reflection of that. Pregnancy is a beautiful journey of nurturing, it a time to be enjoyed by new mom as well as her entire family. It is a life changing experience that needs to be celebrated albeit with proper care. While we have the best facilities, doctors, experts, nurses, support staff, we wanted to add more value and cheer to this journey. And I am proud to inform that Dr. Puranik and her team have taken in consideration all the minute things that go into the care during pregnancy right from prenatal advice to admission to taking care of mom as well as relatives to celebrating the arrival of the little one to discharge and further follow ups and guidance and come out with a beautifully woven nest of entire gamut of services. The nest is woven not just with medical expertise but also a lot of love. In real sense this is a perfect example of customized care. As a leading chain of hospitals we are proud to present 'Mom Story', another path defining initiative!

EVR Motors partners with Badve Group to manufacture electric motors for EVs (2-wheeler and 3-wheeler) in India



Pune (P&V news service):- Badve Engineering Ltd, one of India's leading Tier-1 automotive manufacturing companies for Indian & Global OEMs, and Israeli startup EVR Motors have announced that they are forging a strategic commercial agreement. Under the new strategic partnership, Badve Group will manufacture in India EVR's proprietary Trapezoidal Stator - RFPM electric motors, which measure half the weight and size of competing electric motors and provide superior power and torque performance. In the 3W segment, the collaboration will address both

Commercial & Passenger vehicles markets (L3 and L5 categories), which are poised for strong growth in India in the coming years. Badve Group has already initiated the joint development and localization process at one of its facilities in Pune for manufacturing the EV motors and is currently developing prototypes to cater Indian OEMs. The company plans to ramp up its production to an annual capacity of 0.5 million units by mid-2023 to meet the rising EV demand. EVR motors has developed a unique, patented motor topology: The Trapezoidal

Stator Radial Flux Permanent Magnet (TS-RFPM) Motor, enabling smaller, lighter, lower-cost motors, which can be tailored to user requirements. EVR is now developing a variety of motors, suitable for most mobility and industrial applications. EVR's first motors are designed for 2W and 3W, as well as light commercial vehicles, and weigh less than half compared to similar power radial flux motors. 2W and 3W vehicles constitute around 90% of the Indian electric vehicles market. According to estimates, 6 million 3W vehicles are sold in India annually, and half-million of them are electric 3W. On this occasion, Mr. Sumedh Badve (President, EV Division) said, "We are very excited about our partnership with EVR motors. The ground-breaking EVR technology and our proven manufacturing expertise coupled with our strategic long-term customer relationships will ensure success of this

partnership. This partnership is in line with our core vision of sustainability and net zero emissions through green mobility. We are fully confident that these motors are best suited for adoption in the multi-terrain Indian landscape and will provide an enthralling experience to Indian riders." "The strategic partnership with Badve Group, a leading Tier 1 manufacturer, offers multiple OEMs access to EVR's advanced motor technology, tailored for the Indian market and made in India," said Mr. Opher Doron, CEO of EVR Motors. "Together with other recently announced agreements, this partnership will expand our total addressable market to encompass the most significant OEMs in the strongest e2 vehicle market sectors in India. EVR is proud of the trust our customers place in us and our technology, and of the opportunity to play a significant role in electrifying Indian mobility."

Bank of Baroda launches Industry-First end-to-end Digital Co-Lending Platform



Pune (P&V news service):- Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks and named the Best Technology Bank by Indian Banks' Association (IBA), today announced the launch of an end-to-end Digital Platform to facilitate co-lending of loans in partnership with NBFCs. The platform provides seamless integration between the Bank and multiple NBFC partners to strengthen, accelerate

and simplify the co-lending process. The platform uses rule-based algorithms for underwriting, enables credit assessment checks, enables Retail, MSME, Agri co-lending product offerings and increases process efficiency. The digital co-lending platform has state-of-the-art capabilities to handle both the option 1 (Non-Discretionary) and option 2 (Discretionary) models of co-lending for secured as well as unsecured products as

per the latest RBI guidelines on the co-lending model. Shri Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "The Digital Co-Lending Platform will pave the way for both Bank of Baroda and our NBFC partners to seamlessly integrate and enable lending to borrowers with improved TAT. Co-lending is a priority area for the Bank and we believe that this state-of-the-art platform will help to achieve significant milestones in the coming years. The Bank is targeting to partner with at least 10 NBFCs and also to build a Rs.10,000 crore co-lending loan book through the digital platform in the next two years." Shri Akhil Handa, Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Baroda

added, "The Digital Co-Lending Platform is an agile tech-driven multi-dimensional solution that provides an end-to-end solution for the complex accounting issues which are common under co-lending. Features such as dedicated escrow management and collections mechanism, makes the platform unique and best-in-class, delivering a more efficient loan management cycle." Co-lending is a win-win for all the three stakeholders i.e. customers, partners and the Bank. It provides last mile connectivity by enabling banks to reach out to new customer segments and improve the flow of credit. It enables NBFCs to access the bank's low cost of funds while offering customers loans at a lower ROI.

Skill India International Centre to be set up at Varanasi to prepare skilled workforce for mobility to UAE



Pune (1P&V news service):-

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between NSDC International (NSDCI) and the Indian unit of DP World, Hindustan Ports Private Limited to develop a Skill India International Centre at Varanasi and to skill Indian youth for pursuing overseas employment opportunities in logistics, port operations and allied areas. Skill India International Centre at Varanasi will impart skilling as per international standards, preparing the candidates for global markets. The MoU was exchanged between Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, Director, NSDC International and Mohammed Al Muallem, Executive Vice President, DP World and Director, HPPL in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education & Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Shri Rajeev Chandrasekar, Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship; Dr. Ahmad Belhoual Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship & SMEs, UAE; Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, MSDE; Shri Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to UAE and Rizwan Soomar, CEO and Managing Director, DP World subcontract.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan underscored that India is a valuable partner to United Arab Emirates and other countries across the world. He mentioned that the Government is working to fulfill the aspirations of India's youth and prepare them for the future of work.

The Government is creating a reliable, qualified and an able workforce that will drive economic success, not only for India but for other economies of the world too. He further highlighted that with the existing strong ties between India and the UAE, this will be yet another successful partnership that will deepen our relationship. Skill India Mission aims to bring economic prosperity and provide novel opportunities to the country's youth.

Emphasizing the importance of skilled professionals in UAE, Dr. Ahmad Belhoual Al Falasi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Entrepreneurship & SMEs, UAE said, "This association will help accelerate skills development amongst both countries youth and will be beneficial in addressing and meeting the emerging skills needed by both economies labor markets. I congratulate both NSDCI and DP World for this intent of cooperation to build a future ready skilled work-

force. This Memorandum of Understanding will further strengthen the relationship between UAE and India and help enhance workforce productivity."

The MoU signing was preceded by bilateral discussions chaired by Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr. Ahmad Belhoual Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship & SMEs, UAE. They explored ways to further invigorate bilateral engagements in skill development & entrepreneurship and to take the India-UAE CEPA to unprecedented heights.

The two sides agreed to develop and strengthen comprehensive institutional framework for engaging all relevant stakeholders to scale up skills-based cooperation, including in up-skilling of workforce, training of trainers, facilitating exchange programmes and apprenticeship engagement.

Recognition of certificates issued by Indian Skilling Centres in UAE and renewal of G-to-G mechanism between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI & National Qualifications Authority, UAE were also discussed for liberalising the process of assessment and certification of Indian workforce and to ensure greater mobility for them.

Toyota Group Signs MoU with Government of Karnataka for Big Investments

Pune (1P&V news service):-

In its effort to contribute to the country's vision of "Make in India" and to enable a faster reduction in carbon emissions, out of total investment of INR 4,800 crores, Toyota Group of Companies that constitutes of Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts today announced their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Karnataka to invest INR 4,100 crores. This announcement coincides with Toyota Kirloskar Motor's 25 years of successful journey in India, by winning the hearts of millions of happy customers.

In-addition to boosting the local manufacturing eco-system, the new development will provide an impetus to employment generation and local community development. This investment will also spur the growth of local supplier base and hence result in higher investments and further job creation.

The MoU was exchanged between Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Basavaraj Bommai and Mr. Vikram S. Kirloskar, Vice-Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, in the presence of Dr. Murugesh R. Nirani, Hon'ble Minister of Large & Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Ravi Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary of Karnataka State, and among other dignitaries present at this momentous occasion of MoU Signing Ceremony.

As part of the MoU, Toyota Group of Companies will systematically invest towards making India a self-reliant manufacturing hub, thus contributing towards the Government's Make in India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat mission. The investments are

aimed at promoting greener technologies that will help lower dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate carbon emissions. This investment will also enable local production facilities to build electric powertrain parts and components, thereby cater to the electrified vehicle manufacturing in India. As a part of the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050, Toyota will continue to focus on reducing carbon emissions in a holistic manner going beyond tailpipe emissions to address manufacturing and lifecycle CO2 emissions in order to realise its carbon neutrality goals by 2050, as announced earlier.

Speaking at the auspicious occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Bommai said, "Our aim is to build 'New Karnataka for New India' by creating new 21st century industrial townships and corridors. As a state committed to sustainable development and contributing to the nation's progress, we want to make Karnataka a global supply-chain and manufacturing hub under our 'Build for the World' mission.

This MoU with Toyota Group of Companies is a huge stride in this regard, and Karnataka Government is confident of Toyota's commitment towards sustainable growth and local manufacturing quality for Karnataka's growth and development. Karnataka being the hub of electric vehicles, welcomes this MoU which adds another feather to State's cap as leader in this sector."

Sharing his views on the MoU Signing, Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka, Dr. Murugesh R. Nirani said, "Toyota Group



investments will also enhance the local supplier growth in Karnataka, further leading to higher investments and more job creation. Besides boosting the local manufacturing sector, these investments will also support local community development."

Since its inception, Toyota has been passionate and committed to build a stable, sustainable, and competitive local supply chain and has taken significant efforts in promoting localization of auto parts and components in line with Government's 'Make in India' mission. The Group has invested in strengthening and increasing supplier base through consistently partnering with them to enhance their capacities and capabilities by sharing Toyota best practices, efficient processes and skilling of manpower, by imparting world-class training program to enhance the production excellence with high quality standards.

On upscaling the skill levels at suppliers, Toyota spent 40,000 man-hours every year to enhance processes through system, management, training, and hardware development. Further, another 8,500 man-hours are spent per year

on suppliers' people development.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Vikram S. Kirloskar, Vice-Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "Toyota is committed to enhance the pace of electrification strengthen domestic production with 'Make in India'. Today's MoU signing with the Government of Karnataka, in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and all dignitaries, is a very important milestone in terms of ushering in large-scale investment to make deeper cuts in carbon emissions, higher employment generation, creating local manufacturing hub not only for domestic needs but also for global markets, local community development and advancement in innovation. I believe that such investments are needed to provide technologically viable and economically competitive alternatives to fossil-fuel-intensive technologies in vehicle mobility space.

As a part of our philosophy, we always conduct deeper studies, analyse and explore multiple technological pathways that are best suited to optimally achieve the national goals on lowering depen-

dence on fossil fuels, make India truly self-reliant, reducing carbon emissions and creating jobs. Toyota remains committed to serve our nation and the community where we operate."

Toyota believes that the choice of technologies for achieving our national goals should be practical, sustainable, best suited for unique local conditions that helps to realise the transition in the fastest possible manner. Thus, while our long-term decisions are shaped by our Global environment challenge of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050, our immediate technology decisions are influenced by our desire to achieve maximum immediate societal & environmental benefits, which in turn is largely determined by, the local energy mix of the country, infrastructure readiness as well as customer acceptance in line with our belief of 'Leave No One Behind'. These companies have so far invested Rs. 11,812 crores and employ more than 8,000 people. Over the years, the group has consciously adopted sustainable business practices and transforming from a carmaker to a mobility company.

NEW RANGE ROVER SPORT REVEALED WITH EPIC SPILLWAY CLIMB



Pune (1P&V news service):-

The New Range Rover Sport has made its global premiere with a dramatic world-first climb up a flooded dam spillway in Iceland.

The epic ascent saw New Range Rover Sport resist the surging torrent of water flowing down the ramp of the Karahnjúkar Dam – the biggest of its kind in the world – at a rate of 750 tonnes per minute. A loss of traction risked plunging down the perilous 90 metre drop at the base of the spillway to the valley floor below.

Nick Collins, Executive Di-

rector Vehicle Programmes, Jaguar Land Rover, said: "Land Rover's pioneering MLA-Flex architecture and the latest chassis systems come together to deliver the highest levels of dynamism we've ever seen on Range Rover Sport. Integrated Chassis Control governs the comprehensive suite of innovations, co-ordinating everything from the latest switchable-volume air suspension system to our Dynamic Response Pro electronic active roll control. The result is the most engaging and thrilling Range Rover Sport ever." The spillway climb was the fi-

nal obstacle on the drive from the valley floor to the summit of the dam, taking in a flooded riverbed, long steep tunnels and the 40 degree rocky dam wall itself. The 294 metre stretch of spillway had water furiously cascading down its 90 metre drop, to provide the ultimate test of traction and driver confidence.

Jessica Hawkins, Stunt Driver, said: "The power of the water surging down the spillway was breath-taking from the side of the valley. Driving into it knowing that a 90 metre drop was waiting behind me at the bottom of the slope, if things went wrong, made this the most challenging drive I've ever undertaken. Despite the steep slope and rushing water, New Range Rover Sport made it look easy. Its traction, composure and commanding visibility inspired so much confidence I was able to enjoy the whole experience."

Motor Insurance: All you need to know about Zero depreciation add-on cover

Pune (1P&V news service):-

Ever since the Motor Vehicles Act made it mandatory for car owners to have a motor insurance policy, Insurers have provided a diverse range of motor insurance products that protect the insured from the financial jolt that follows in cases of accidental repairs. Zero-depreciation is one such add on cover that offers comprehensive coverage.

With the rise in road accidents and increased sales of luxury or sports cars, choosing an insurance policy that offers comprehensive coverage is recommended. Zero depreciation add-on cover in car insurance ensures complete coverage, negating the impact of depreciation.

Depreciation is the devaluation in the value of an asset due to natural wear and tear, usage and obsolescence. Apart from the engine and the mov-

ing parts, other parts of a vehicle are also prone to depreciation - such as plastic and metal. Based on the car's age, the accumulation of depreciation ranges from 5% during 0 to six months to 50% for vehicles above 10 years of age.

When an accident occurs, insurers pay for replacement of parts impacted due to the accident after deducting the depreciation. In such cases, the insured needs to pay for the difference between the value of the new part and the depreciated value.

However, if one has a zero-depreciation add-on cover, which can be availed at a nominal premium, the insured can receive the entire amount of damaged parts without considering the amount of depreciation.

"Car insurance is not an expense but an investment. Higher the investment, the greater the rewards that one

can benefit from. At Raheja QBE GI, customer satisfaction has always been our priority and we believe in delivering a superior customer experience. Zero depreciation is one such add-on cover which ensures complete coverage, negating the impact of depreciation hence, choosing such cover is highly recommended" adds Mr. Pankaj Arora, MD and CEO, Raheja QBE General Insurance.

An extensive Zero depreciation add-on cover offers many benefits, some of which are enhanced coverage, reduced expenses for the insured and peace of mind.

These factors liberate the insured from worrying about costly repairs while enjoying the ownership of their car. Zero depreciation add-on cover can be added to your existing car insurance policy and can also be chosen when buying a new insurance policy.

Microsoft Future Ready Industry Week highlights key trends that will accelerate growth, innovation, and personalized customer experiences in the Banking & Insurance sector

Pune (1P&V news service):-

Microsoft's Future Ready Industry week, BFSI edition witnessed a rich confluence of perspectives and thought-provoking ideas. Industry leaders from leading financial institutions like ICICI, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra, Federal Bank, Tata AIA Life Insurance, Aditya Birla Capital, Adobe India amongst others shared how digital transformation provides new opportunities to create value and rethink the way they operate with customers. Speakers emphasized the use of AI-based personal services to drive financial inclusion, profitability, connected customer experiences, combatting financial crime, digital selling, and intelligent automation. The BFSI sector has been a frontrunner in adopting AI and cloud capabilities for improving productivity, enabling faster time-to-market with new products and services, and empowering a hybrid workforce to stay resilient in the face of radical transformation sweeping across the industry. In the session titled 'Future first financial services - Global and local perspectives,' Bill Borden, Corporate Vice President, Financial Services, Microsoft and Sashikumar Sreedharan, Managing Director, Microsoft India, discussed the future of banking and how technology is accelerating the digital transformation journey for the sector. Highlighting some global customer examples where industry leaders like Standard Chartered, Westbank, Morgan Stanley have made considerable progress in their digital transformation journey, Bill said, "It is an exciting time to continue to think about acceleration and the bold impact that fi-

nancial institutions can have on products and services. These institutions must delve into products and services that can drive innovation at a faster pace by deploying technology whether it is moving to the cloud to drive scale around compute and networking and data driving capabilities, or the use of artificial intelligence. Data needs to be brought together in a manner to create value." He further added, "Microsoft is helping financial services partners deepen their customer relationships. But there is also an aspect around how institutions need to be prioritizing their platforms, so they can not only offer products and services directly to their customers but, also extend their products and services to other ecosystems and other experiences." Sharing his views on the impact of technology, Ramesh Lakshminarayanan, Chief Information Officer & Group Head IT, HDFC Bank said, "The ability to manage data at a large scale is at your fingertips today unlike how it was a few years ago. At HDFC bank, we realized this and have a very differentiated approach. We are moving all our data workloads onto the Azure cloud now and slowly pushing our centralized old platforms into the new cloud age with its data capabilities. From a cybersecurity perspective, companies like Microsoft are running their large cloud centers and constantly looking at the internet space, to gauge what kind of new threats are coming. Banks cannot do that individually and we get a collective advantage by pooling the resources on cloud."

Sharing their insights on a session titled 'Customer experience in Banking: Personalized, digital, and

secure, Anubhuti Sanghai, Operations & Customer Service Head, ICICI Bank and Deepak Sharma, President & Chief Digital Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank highlighted the future of customer experience, digital servicing, selling and intelligent automation in banking. According to Anubhuti, "Organizations should understand that customers expect them to be highly aware. Offering them a personalized journey is critical and so is communication which is targeted towards their needs and requirements. So, from a business perspective, I would say that increasingly the profit pools of organizations are dependent on data flows and how well one is able to mine that data, build engaging conversations and an intuitive journey for the customer. That is exactly what we are doing to enhance the quality of our customer interactions."

Highlighting the digital journey, Deepak Sharma, President & Chief Digital Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "The Infrastructure part where the cloud is present is increasingly becoming the way to go and many of our new applications have started to move to cloud or are born on cloud. Also, the front-end is where we see a lot of value to customers in terms of speed, the digital channels or payments and this area requires substantial capabilities. This is where our ability to keep experimenting and learning becomes important and therefore, we are insourcing the front-end capability to work with partners like Microsoft and others to modernize our applications and look at a cloud ready infrastructure." Addressing the challenges of improving workforce ef-

ficiency and collaboration, Shalini Warrior, Executive Director of Federal Bank said, "We use Microsoft tools like Yammer and Teams extensively and they have become an integral part of our daily communication with employees. We run an initiative on Yammer called 'Nai Soch,' where we encourage the frontline executives to share anything which is troubling the customer." She further added "Despite proliferation of digital transactions, awareness and literacy is still low. Federal Bank runs several social media awareness programs and series in regional languages to educate customers about safer ways to transact."

Naveen Tahilyani, Managing Director & Chief Executive, Tata AIA Life Insurance in a fireside chat session with Anant Maheswari, President Microsoft India said, "Thanks to Microsoft Teams, we have figured out how to work remotely. All our 10,500 employees across the country use Teams to connect seamlessly and there were barely any productivity losses during the pandemic. We have adopted a hybrid work environment and now only 40% of our employees work from the office at any point in time. Employees are happy to embrace the hybrid work environment, which is here to stay, and this will get better as we go along."

Speaking about the transformation in the financial services space, Mukesh Malik, Chief Operating Officer, Aditya Birla Capital said, "Data is the new gold and hyper personalization is the holy grail of entire customer experience strategy across all our group companies. This requires extremely high velocity data processing capability which we find very

convenient on the Microsoft Azure cloud platform. Our extensive use of data can be deduced from the fact that in our life insurance business, 17% of our entire business comes from pre-approved sum assured life insurance plans for our customers." Speaking about intelligent banking and delivering personalized experiences in India, Vyshak Venugopalan, Director Solution Consulting at Adobe India said, "There are three critical areas for organizations to focus on in terms of their innovation agenda. The first is actual customer data management and activation in real time. It is important to have data, of course, but what insight do you derive out of it and how real time can you be in delivering that experience is one of the major areas where organization should focus. The second is individualization and personalization at scale and the third is the omni channel journey where you combine both the data as well as the content together to deliver that right experience at the right time in the right channel."

Highlighting the role of technology and Cloud K V Dipu, Senior President - Head of Operations & Customer Service, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance said, "Over the last few years the customer footprint has become increasingly digital and managing customer data effectively is more critical than ever. Through the cloud, we can convert this data and merge it into a single data lake that provides us with a 360-degree view of the customer. This enables us to not only service the customer better but also ensure that we sell him the right products from an upsell or cross sell point of view."