



Huge response for Skating Summer Camp



Pune (P&V news service):- More than 70 players and coaches from different parts of the country participated in the summer training camp organized by roller skating coach Rahul Rane of LXT United Skating Academy at his state-of-the-art skating rink at Kasarsai near Mulshi this year. Players of various ages from Pune, Aurangabad, Parbhani, Panvel, Mumbai Suburbs, Vasai, Virar, Nagpur, Karnataka, Gujarat, Satna (Madhya

Pradesh) and Jammu-Kashmir had attended the camp. Skaters under the age of 14 were given technical training in muscle conditioning cardio workouts, while those in the above age group were given strength training, threshold workouts, cardiovascular and muscular workouts. The necessary strategies for the competitions were guided. Talking about the diet of the players, Rahul Rane said, Nutritionist Preeti Gupta decides a nutritious diet ac-

ording to the age of all the players. Everyone was fed just after the session according to the need. We serve nutritious food immediately after practice as after good off skating and on skating the body temperature is perfect to absorb maximum nutrients from food. Along with Rahul Rane and Anil Pednekar of LXT United Skating Academy, co-coaches Omkar Mungekar, Sohail Bharuchi and Ankush Gharat also coordinated the Camp.

Rahul Rane receives Global Excellence Award



Pune (P&V news service):- Brand Empower is an organization that honors individuals and organizations with outstanding work in various fields. The awards are presented to organizations providing various services, entrepreneurs, social organizations, individuals or organizations in the field of beauty and health, sports, hospitality, business, startups, e-commerce. This was the third year

and the awards were presented by well-known actor Anupam Kher. Earlier, the award was given by famous actresses Madhuri Dixit Nene and Raveena Tandon. In the sports category, Rahul Rane, a leading roller skating coach and a successful entrepreneur in Roller Skating Accessory Business was honored with the Global Excellence Award. Rane has an updated Skating Arena with all the facilities at Kasarsai near Pune and

the players from different states of India come to learn in the updated skating arena here. Rahul Rane's four students are Shiv Chhatrapati Award winners and the entire Rane family has been successfully working in the Roller Skating Accessory Business for the last several years. Rahul Rane received an Award along with his mother Reshma Rane and wife Dipti Rane recently for his successful career in sports.

INTRODUCING THE NEW LAND ROVER DEFENDER 130



Pune (P&V news service):- Alongside the critically acclaimed Defender 90 and Defender 110, the Defender 130 adds another dimension to the all-conquering family of all-terrain vehicles, with adventuring opportunities for up to eight adults across three rows of full-size seating. Like the Defender 90 and 110, the new 130 body design borrows its name from the original Defender family, inspired by the longest model in the line-up. It allows customers to effortlessly transport up to eight people across any terrain and is the ultimate demonstration of Defender's breadth of talents. A host of exterior and interior design enhancements and technologies distinguish New Defender 130, uniquely balancing comfort with custom-

ary Defender durability and capability. Nick Collins, Executive Director, Vehicle Programmes, Land Rover, said: "New Defender 130 brings a new dimension of capability to our most durable and rugged family of vehicles. Its spacious interior welcomes and transports up to eight people in supreme comfort, enabling unparalleled sophisticated adventuring opportunities for families, with unique design signatures to create a distinct New Defender experience." Defender 130 has its own colour palette, with a new, exclusive Sedona Red option ensuring the 130 stands out in the line-up. The exterior is complemented by the Extended Bright Pack - available in addition to the existing Bright Pack - which provides a distinct exterior

design with Ceres Silver Satin finish around all lower body cladding and front and rear skid plates in Noble Chrome. Inside, thoughtful storage and convenience solutions are provided for every passenger across all three rows of seating. This ensures Defender 130 caters for passengers in every seat, with effortless access to the spacious three-abreast third row in a bright and airy cabin. The interior design features new colour and material options, providing an amplified all-terrain experience. The latest connected technologies and chassis systems - including a new, larger 28.95 cm (11.4) Pivi Pro touchscreen, standard Electronic Air Suspension and Cabin Air Purification Plus - provide the ultimate support and comfort for modern off-road excursions.

Maharashtra's Deveja is representing India in South Korea

Pune (P&V news service):- To inculcate peer learning and improve competitiveness, India has sent 11 trainees to South Korea to participate in the Korea Skills Transfer for Aspiring Regions (K-STAR) Capacity-building Program for Skills Competition organised by the Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRDK). The program started on 23 May 2022 and will go on till 3 June 2022 at the Global Institute for Transferring Skills

(GIFTS) of HRDK, Republic of Korea. The capacity-building program aims at enhancing the skills and competencies of participants who are preparing for WorldSkills Shanghai, which is scheduled to take place in October 2022. K-STAR provides a unique opportunity for Indian students to receive skill training as per international standards and inch closer to winning at WorldSkills, the global benchmark for skill competitions that brings

together participants from over 65 countries. Indian trainees have been chosen based on the outcome of multiple selection tests conducted among the gold, silver, and bronze medal winners of the IndiaSkills 2021 National Competition. They are also being accompanied by experts, who are either from the industry and academia or have extensive knowledge and experience in their respective trades. The said 11 trainees (see profiles in annexure below)

are representing nine skills, including two team skills—Mechatronics and Mobile Robotics, with one expert for each skill. The advent of Industry 4.0 and the evolution of technology, especially with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, have opened new doors for learners as well as the industry to explore new-age skills. Keeping this in mind, India has sent trainees who excel in skills such as 3D Digital Game Art, Electrical Installation, Mobile Robotics, and

Mechatronics. The competitors are undergoing module-wise concept training, gaining knowledge on the WorldSkills marking scheme and insights from industry experts of India as well as South Korea. The workshops are being held at multiple locations including Samsung Electronics Digital City Suwon, Korea Polytechnics Pohang Campus, Hyundai Heavy Industries, and Osan University. All COVID-19 protocols are being strictly followed.

Indian industries to accelerate energy efficiency investments within next 5 years to achieve Net-Zero targets: ABB survey

Pune (P&V news service):- According to the Energy Efficiency Investment Survey 2022 commissioned by ABB, 32% of the companies are planning to make energy efficiency improvements this year, and 7 in 10 companies are upgrading their equipment to best-in-class energy efficiency ratings. Half of those investing or planning their investments in energy efficiency cited production as their high-priority area for investment, followed by facilities, including building management, HVAC, and lighting. The Energy Efficiency Investment Survey 2022 comes in the wake of a recent UN report calling for concerted action from countries to cut greenhouse emissions at a faster rate. India announced its commitments to fight climate change at the Glasgow COP26 conference last year, pledging to cut its emissions to net-zero by 2070 while targeting to meet 50% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030. In alignment with this, one of the key findings of the survey reveals that Indian industries are increasing investments in energy efficiency in the next five years, as the crucial race

towards Net Zero intensifies. "The results show that a large percentage of companies are confident of investing in energy-efficient technologies, setting India on the right track to fulfill its 'Panchamrit' promise around the five key commitments to fight climate change. This is excellent news for our environment, people, and industries. We are committed to making this a reality for our customers and partners in India and will continue to accelerate decarbonization by developing smart, energy-efficient solutions tailored to specific customer needs," said Sanjeev Arora, President, Motion Business Area, ABB India. More key findings from India: 63% plan to achieve their respective Net Zero targets within 5 years. 90% say rising energy costs are at least a minor threat to their profitability, highlighting the need for energy efficiency. Approximately 23% of annual operating costs are attributable to energy usage. Major driving factors for energy efficiency investment were cost savings, corporate sustainability commitments, and increased competitive-

ness. Just under a third plan to make energy efficiency improvements this year (32%), with a further 61% planning to make them within the next 2 to 3 years. Production was the priority area of investment for half of those investing or planning to invest, in making their energy usage more efficient. 72% are upgrading equipment to best-in-class energy efficiency ratings to be more energy efficient. 94% expect their investment in energy efficiency to increase over the next 5 years. The global survey was carried out as a part of the #EnergyEfficiencyMovement, a multi-stakeholder initiative launched by ABB in 2021. The interviews were conducted online by Sapio Research in February 2022, targeting 2,294 companies in 13 countries including India, ranging in size from 500 to 5,000 or more employees. 254 companies from India participated in the survey, out of which, 71% belonged to the manufacturing sector, 9% constituted the transportation and heavy industries, and the remaining belonged to the energy generation and light industries.

Biography of farmer leader Sharad Joshi in English to be released on Sunday

Pune (P&V news service):- Sharad Joshi: Leading Farmers to the Centre Stage, the English biography of the late farmer leader by well-known writer Bhanu Kale will be released on Sunday, June 5, at an event organised by Pune International Centre (PIC). The release of the book by the eminent journalist and Rajya Sabha MP, Kumar Ketkar, will be accompanied with a book discussion on the topic, 'Sharad Joshi: The Man Who Introduced Bharat to India,' on 5th June 2022 at Sumant Moolgaonkar Hall, ground floor, ICC Trade Towers from 6 pm to 7.15 pm. The participants in the discussion include Dr Ajit Ranade, Vice Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Prof Pradeep Apte (Professor Emeritus, Savitribai Phule Pune University), Mr. Govindbhai Joshi, Managing Trustee, Shetkari Sanghatana Trust and Mr Bhanu Kale, eminent writer and the author of the book. The event is open for all. For registrations please contact 7722071002 or email: picmanager@puneinternationalcentre.org. Every month, the PIC, a

policy research think tank, conducts a number of online programmes such as discussions on contemporary issues, book conversations, webinars and Pune Sarwad (programme in Marathi), among other events. The centre, which is led by its President Dr RA Mashelkar and Vice-President, Dr Vijay Kelkar, works in the areas of National Security, Energy Environment and Climate Change, Social Innovation, Science, Technology, Innovation & National Growth, and Economic Reforms & Urbanisation. PIC has more than 400 eminent persons as its members who include very senior retired Defence officials, senior retired bureaucrats and policy makers, scientists and corporate leaders. This is besides 55 Institutional Members such as the IITs, IIMs, top universities and research organisations. The PIC holds regular webinars and online discussions and publishes a number of research papers and policy recommendations. PIC's book, 'Rising to the China Challenge: Winning Through Strategic Patience and Economic Growth' was published last year.

PAYBACK India announces a strategic partnership with Apollo Pharmacy

Pune (P&V news service):- PAYBACK India, a BharatPe company and the country's largest multi-brand loyalty program, today announced a strategic alliance with Apollo Pharmacy, India's largest pharmacy. This is a first-of-its-kind partnership for PAYBACK India in the pharmacy industry. The company announced that this partnership will enable PAYBACK to further augment customer engagement across its 100mn+ member base as well as help the brand acquire new customers across 4500 Apollo Pharmacy outlets. Eligible PAYBACK members will be able to earn points on their purchases at Apollo Pharmacy outlets. All members will be able to redeem their accumulated loyalty points at Apollo Pharmacy outlets to enjoy discounted billing. This is a win-win for both as Apollo Pharmacy gets access to PAYBACK's large member base and PAYBACK will deepen member engagement at a frequent consumer spend partner for earning & redemption of points. Additionally, Apollo Pharmacy will be able to leverage customer insights collated by PAYBACK to facilitate upselling, cross-selling, new customer acquisition and retention. Commenting on the association, Mr. Rishabh Raghavan, CEO, PAYBACK India, said, "As part of our next growth strategy to strengthen our partner network, we are committed to expand into newer verticals as well as aggressively focus on the high-frequency categories. Pharmacy is an unexplored sector from a coalition loyalty standpoint, and we are delighted to foray into this category with this partnership with Apollo

Pharmacy, one of India's largest and most renowned pharmacy chains. At PAYBACK India, we have a customer first philosophy and have always focused on superior customer engagement, experience & rewards. I am confident that this partnership will further propel our objective of providing our members with avenues to accelerate accumulation of reward points and save money on their purchases by seamlessly redeeming their accumulated points." Speaking on the partnership, Mr. P Jayakumar, CEO, Apollo Pharmacy, said, "This partnership brings together the largest multibrand loyalty program and India's largest pharmacy chain. With evolving consumer behavior, it is necessary that our consumers have choice not only in terms of product and services inside the store but also in terms of payments. As footfalls across all regions improve, we will see more and more consumers seek value in their purchases. The option to save money on their medicine purchases will be very helpful to them" PAYBACK India is a unique loyalty program, designed to engage with customers and reward them for their purchases with loyalty points, that can be redeemed later. Currently, PAYBACK members can earn points at 100+ brands - instore & online and redeem them for select brand partners or for products and vouchers from leading brands. The partners of PAYBACK India include renowned brands from multiple industries including retail, fuel, banking, payments, entertainment, hospitality and travel. Some of its key partners include HPCL, BookMyShow, Thomas Cook India, Amazon, Flipkart and many more.

HAIER INDIA EXPANDS ITS SMART HOME SOLUTIONS PORTFOLIO; INTRODUCES ROBOT VACUUM CLEANER EQUIPPED WITH ADVANCED FEATURES



Pune (P&V news service):- Haier, the global leader in Home Appliances & Consumer Electronics and the World's Number 1 brand in Major Appliances for 13 Consecutive Years* today unveiled its first-ever smart Vacuum Cleaner technology - the 2-in-1 dry & wet mop Robot Vacuum Cleaner in India with an aim to make cleaning more efficient, effective and user-friendly; reinforcing its commitment to strengthen the smart home solutions portfolio. With 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi and Google Home Assistant, the all-new Haier Robot Vacuum Cleaner offers a smart management with the Haier smart app, voice control, and also a remote control. The Haier Robot Vacuum Cleaner can be conveniently monitored from

anywhere on the globe. The Vacuum Cleaner performs forceful cleaning on all floor types while avoiding obstructions and preventing damages and scratches, thanks to its 2200pa ultra-strong suction power and proximity sensors. In comparison to traditional vacuum cleaners, this powerful Vacuum Cleaner has a 2600 mAh strong battery backup that allows it to operate for longer periods of time. It's an all-rounder for all basic cleaning needs thanks to its 2-in-1 Dry & Wet mopping technology. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Satish NS, President, Haier Appliances India said, "We are extremely happy to announce our foray into this new category. With our focused efforts in introducing Smart solutions powered by breakthrough technologies to give the best results that are effective and efficient, we at Haier India believe in making a positive difference in people's lives - and this new offering is a testament to our commitment. As we move ahead in time, we'll

focus on demonstrating our innovative skills by outpacing our product and software advancements, putting us on the verge of revolutionizing the technological ecosystem continually." The Haier Robot Vacuum Cleaner also boasts a very quiet operation, an ultra-slim design - at around 76 mm height, the Robot Vacuum Cleaner easily slips under furniture & hard to reach locations, such as behind cabinets or beds, to give a clean floor, and super tiny size. The reality of smart home goods as a functional utility rather than just a luxury is being reimagined and brought to reality by Haier. In keeping with its diverse line of smart gadgets, Haier's entry into the Robot Vacuum Cleaner sector bolsters its mission of transforming modern Indian contemporary homes and delivering a connected living experience to its consumers. Haier's new Robot Vacuum Cleaner will initially be available on Amazon and shop.haierindia.com at a price of INR 14,999/-.

Metro Brands Partners with PETA India to Launch First-Ever Vegan-Friendly Collection by a Major Indian Shoe Retailer

Pune (P&V news service):- Just in time for World Environment Day (5 June), Metro Brands - one of the largest footwear and accessories specialty retailers in the country, renowned for its innovation and high-quality footwear - has partnered with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India to launch its first-ever vegan-friendly shoe collection, in honour

of our colourful Earth and the animals who live on it. While leather-free shoes are available in other stores, the collection marks the first time a major Indian shoe retailer is celebrating vegan footwear through an official collection - Metro Brands' latest Tie-Dye Collection, made with modern, comfortable animal-free materials that are kinder to the planet.

Shabana Azmi, Ajay Mago, Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri, Maithili Rao, Rinki Roy Bhattacharya launch Om Books International's The Oldest Love Story at Title Waves, Bandra



Pune (P&V news service):- UNPFA Goodwill Ambassador Padma Bhushan Shabana Azmi launched an extraordinary collection of essays that address the theme of motherhood through the prism of lived experiences at Title Waves in Bandra. "Popular culture the world over refers to motherhood as the ultimate destination for women. But is motherhood really the gold standard for women it is assumed to be? The Oldest Love Story delves into this and much more," elaborates Ajay Mago, Publisher, Om Books and the driving force behind The

Oldest Love Story. The literary gem boasts of essays by some of India's celebrated writers – Kamala Das, Shashi Deshpande, Nabaneeta Dev Sen, C.S. Lakshmi, Vaidehi and a rare gem by Mannu Bhandari, who introspect with admirable honesty their experience of mothering and the price demanded by years of giving. Many others including Shabana Azmi, Chitra Palekar and Saeed Mirza explore their relationship with their mothers. Maithili Rao, co-editor of the anthology, describes the process of gathering these honest personal stories as

"invaluable." "These searching essays prove that the personal is political in the truest sense. Besides being explorations of life's fundamental relationship, the stories are a record of social history." Co-editor Rinki Roy Bhattacharya says, "Overflowing with honest, heartfelt – often humorous – homages to mothers, or the children, The Oldest Love Story dazzles with a rich galaxy of brilliant authors from across India who share their deeply personal stories. The extraordinary collection will be a jewel amongst nonfiction works for years and years ... we shall



savour it." Editor-in-chief of Om Books International, Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri, describes the anthology as an incredible document of the experience of motherhood. "What appealed to me is the range of views on offer here. Given the sociocultural conditioning around motherhood, it's fascinating how contrarian views coexist in this anthology to provide a holistic understanding of the complex phenomenon. It is not every anthology that brings together a Kamala Das and a Mannu Bhandari, a Shashi Deshpande and a Shabana Azmi."

Joyville by Shapoorji Housing to launch its maiden brand campaign with Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador

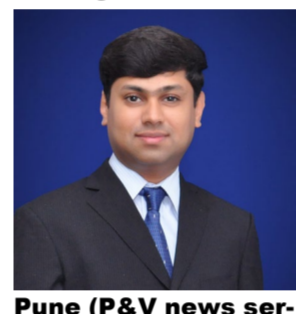
Pune (P&V news service):- Joyville, the aspirational housing platform of Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate, is all set to launch its brand campaign with Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador. The brand campaign smartly positions Joyville as "The Next-Gen" homes for winners. Joyville is a well-crafted platform developed by Shapoorji Pallonji, Actis, International Finance Corporation (an arm of the World Bank) and Asian Development Bank. It has so far launched six housing projects in four major cities. In Pune, the group offers aspirational addresses

such as Joyville Hinjewadi, Joyville Hadapsar Annex and Joyville Sensorium, besides, it has presence near Mumbai (Joyville Virar), near Kolkata (Joyville Howrah) and Haryana (Joyville Gurugram). Sriram Mahadevan, MD, Joyville Shapoorji Housing, says, "We are glad to have on-boarded Sourav, who is a household name across the country. He is known for his unique leadership, thriving passion, trust, and reliability. Thus, resonating strongly with the core attributes of our brand. All Joyville developments are an address where you are surrounded

by people with drive to succeed and Sourav truly represents this spirit." Parikshit Pawar, CMO, Joyville Shapoorji Housing, says, "Partnering with Dada is essentially a strategic move. He is recognized for his winning attitude, both on and off the field and is famously regarded as the catalyst of change for Indian cricket. This association between dada and Joyville by Shapoorji Pallonji, can be viewed as a coming together of two winners from their respective fields. Such a symbiotic brand fit is very rare to see." Sourav Ganguly says, "Brand

Joyville by Shapoorji Pallonji stands for its trust and transparency. Home buying is an emotional decision, one typically doesn't like to compromise when one chooses a home." Sourav further added "I have personally experienced some of the Joyville developments and I was completely wowed by the expanse and the lifestyle delivered. Joyville truly offers a winning residential address!" Notably, Joyville Shapoorji Housing has successfully delivered the earlier phases of its developments in Howrah, Virar & Hinjawadi projects before the RERA deadlines.

Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space



Pune (P&V news service):- Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity – TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years,

TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities. Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth will set-up a nimble and agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce. Ashish Dikshit, MD of

ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders." Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on

this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders." TMRW will tap into the extensive range of capabilities and networks that the Aditya Birla Group and ABFRL ecosystems provide to emerging and disruptor brands.

Santosh Shukla becomes New CEO of British Organization



Pune (P&V news service):- One of the promising and dedicated personalities of the business scenario, Mr. Santosh Shukla (Advocate, Supreme Court of India) has become the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the British Organization - World Book of Records. He has been appointed by the Central Working Committee of the organization recently. The World Book of Records has completed 05 years of its successful journey and is now going to

pave the new phase of other success stories in the next five years to come. Speaking about his new role, Mr. Shukla said the organization will reach its presence in more than 75 countries along with publishing special editions to promote the cause of enhancing potential among people across the world. The organization would galvanize its supreme authority in the certification business. At the helm of Mr. Shukla, the organization has made its reach in 25 countries in the world with a strong global network. Mr. Shukla hails from Indore, Madhya Pradesh as well as deep rooted Indian culture and heritage and is of Indian origin. Being Cyber law expert and an author of technical books, he is also Director General of South Asian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SACCI), President and CEO of International Quality Certification, President of Alma World and holding post of Chief Editor of Alma Today, Alma

Times, WBR News and other leading organizations. On this occasion, Mr. Shukla said that the organization has made its strong presence in 25 countries of the world in the last 05 years. It has included and honoured 1000 personalities around the world. He said that the World Book of Records (WBR) is one of the leading organizations in international certification of world records. It works intercontinental from all continents with a global network. It recognizes potential talent and capabilities in world records through international certification. It also honours personalities and lists places of outstanding contribution for humanity and universal peace. The World Book of Records honours Record holders along with individuals, organizations, institutions, and others that dedicated their performance and social services for the betterment of society. On being appointed new CEO, Mr. Shukla was congratulated by dignitaries of the business world across the world.

ular actors who were roped in for Funeral are Vijay Kenkare and Parth Nishant Ghatge. The ordinary life of four friends takes an interesting turn when one of them decides to start a business in funeral management. Hira finds unique ways for people to bid goodbye to their loved ones.

Heartfulness Guide Shri Kamlesh Patel 'Daaji' Addresses RSS - Says India's Role Is to Help People across the globe Rediscover Humanity



Pune (P&V news service):- Guide of Heartfulness Shri Kamlesh Patel (Daaji) addressed RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) at Nagpur sharing his powerful

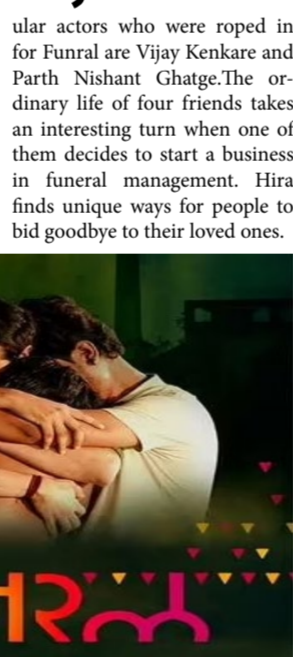
thoughts on nation-building, gaining the true perspective of diversity in India, his role to 'help the human rediscover humanity', and the means of 'creating unity in the individual.' Besides Daaji, the event was also presided over by Shri Mohan Bhagwat ji – Sarsangchalak of RSS. Around thousand participants joined the 'Third Year Officers' Training Camp (OTC) or the Sangh Shiksha Varg of RSS which concluded today in Nagpur.

The third-year camp, also now called the Sangh Shiksha Varg, was started by RSS founder K B Hedgewar in 1927. It is one of the two most important annual RSS events. During his Nagpur visit, Daaji threw light on his beginnings at the Arya Samaj Gurukul where he would begin his mornings with 'shanti path' and under the tutelage of his guru draw his inspirations for nation-building and building the Self.

'Funral' Releasing on 10 Jun, 2022



Pune (P&V news service):- Funral is an upcoming Marathi movie scheduled to be released on 10 Jun, 2022. The movie is directed by Vivek Rajendra Dubey and will feature Aroh Welankar, Tanvi Barve, Sambhaji Bhagat and Prema Sakhardande as lead characters. Other popular actors who were roped in for Funral are Vijay Kenkare and Parth Nishant Ghatge. The ordinary life of four friends takes an interesting turn when one of them decides to start a business in funeral management. Hira finds unique ways for people to bid goodbye to their loved ones.



Girish Kulkarni and Hrishikesh Joshi starrer 'BHIRKIT' Releasing on June 17



ily Drama Marathi Film crafted with excellence by Anup Jagdale. The Story is expected to be revolving around the life of three best buddies living their life at their stake and overcoming the odds in life- but fate plays a unique role and brings a string of trouble to them, leading to consequences. This so called comedy film stars versatile artistes like Girish Kulkarni, Hrishikesh Joshi and Tanaji Galgunde, Monalisa Bagal, Kushal Badrike, Sagar Karande, Kailas Waghmare, Usha Naik and Yakub Sayed. Screenplay and dialogues of this film are written by Pratap Gangavane and music is composed by Shaal and Pritesh. According to the director Anup Jagdale, "This film presents the story about all of us. How much of humanity is left in human beings today in this materialistic world and how much we have changed today, is what the film's story is all about. This is a multi starrer film and therefore all the versatile artistes have been selected for their respective roles. National award winning actor Girish Kulkarni plays the lead role of 'Tatya' in this film." This film will be released all over Maharashtra on 17th June 2022.

social collaborates on a Hand Embroidery Session on the occasion of

FOOD & RESTURANT

FC SOCIAL curates a Hand Embroidery Session on June 5

HAND EMBROIDERY SESSION with **BespokeybySaurabh**
Learn how to create different products & #art using basic hand embroidery!
Sunday, 5th June 11 AM - 2PM
F.C. ROAD SOCIAL
Tickets ₹800 All materials provided
BespokeybySaurabh x SOCIAL



World Environment Day. Encourage awareness and action for the protection of the environment and learn how to create different products and art using basic hand embroidery. All the materials will be provided. Date: 5th June, 2022
Time: 11am to 2pm. Venue: FC SOCIAL, Unit No. 101, Mezz & 1st Floor, Cello Platina, C.T.S No. 1183, Fergusson College Rd, Pune, Maharashtra 411005 Fee: 800/-

Pune (P&V news service):- FC Road SOCIAL collaborates on a Hand Embroidery Session on the occasion of

Enjoy the Special Pizzas at Circle of Crust



Circle of Crust makes Pizza Better with better-for-you options. With mindful eating on the rise as well as health restrictions on customers, Circle of Crust has been inclusive by creating options for vegan and gluten-free pizzas. Vegan customers can choose their favourites from Almost Kheema, Muishroomza, Vegetale, and Margherita. They can even convert most vegetarian pizzas to vegan pizzas by substituting mozzarella

cheese with vegan cheese. Gluten-intolerant customers can choose crusts from Classic, Quinoa, and Buckwheat to submit to their cravings. Circle of Crust also offers crust options of beetroot, spinach, corn, whole wheat & roasted flax seeds, and multigrain to customers. With a varied choice of sauces and toppings, customers are spoiled for choice in making pizza their own way. Where: All Circle of Crust Outlets

Pune (P&V news service):- Presented by Classic Enterprises and produced by Suresh Jamatalal Oswal and Bhagyavanti Suresh Oswal and directed by Anup Jagdale, The film is all set to hit screens on June 17. Bhirkitt is an Upcoming Emotional-Musical-Social-Comedy-Thriller Family

This World Environment Day, Quest Global Pledges to Plant 500,000 Trees Globally by 2025

Quest Global is celebrating its 25th anniversary by planting 25 trees on behalf of every employee

Pune (P&V news service): Quest Global, one of the world's fastest growing engineering services firms, announced its Quest Global Pledge - a global reforestation drive.

The organization will plant 500,000 trees globally by 2025. As Quest Global turns 25 this year, the organization is honoring its commitment to sustainable development by planting 25 trees for each of its employees. The activity will commence from June 5, 2022 - World Environment Day.

The Quest Global Pledge is rooted in a multi-year partnership with One Tree Planted, an NGO on a mission to support global reforestation and make a positive social impact on the world. Through the partnership, the

organization will not only ensure plantation of half a million trees, but will also see to it that the trees are native to their environments, and that they will be nurtured and monitored over time.

The project will have three phases until 2025; with phase one kicking off on World Environment Day on June 5 and concluding on Earth Day in 2023.

Quest Global's Chairman and CEO, Ajit Prabhu, said, "It's simple. To make the planet habitable for future generations, preserving and expanding our forest cover is critical. We are in the business of engineering, but what we are really building is a brighter future. The Quest Global Pledge is our way of building a brighter future - by creating an environmental

imprint that lasts for generations to come. And our association with One Tree Planted is just the beginning of this meaningful journey."

Contributing to a better tomorrow and giving back to communities where we live and operate has always been part of the Quest Global DNA. As the organization marks its silver jubilee, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) marks its golden one. The organization feels the coinciding of these anniversaries is a sign of promise.

Therefore, Quest Global chose to coordinate the start of its pledge with UNEP's World Environment Day, designed to raise awareness and advocate for effective environmental change. "We all have a role to play in

restoring and preserving the environment, and we admire Quest Global's dedication to being a force for good," says Matt Hill, Founder & Chief Environmental Evangelist at One Tree Planted. "Thanks to Quest Global's generous support, we're restoring forests, creating habitat for biodiversity, and making a positive social impact around the world."

Reflecting the organization's commitment to do their part in achieving environmental sustainability, the Quest Global Pledge is aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) Goal #15 Life on Land. The goal aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and sustainably manage forests.

Sarthak -Credit Suisse Skill Building Center inaugurated

Pune (P&V news service): Sarthak Educational Trust (<https://sarthakindia.org/>), NGO working for skill development of divyans since 2008 , inaugurated the new premises of Sarthak-Credit Suisse Skill-Building Center in Pune at Clover Center, Camp .

The center was inaugurated in presence of founders of Sarthak Educational Trust Jitender Aggarwal and Dr. Suman Aggarwal along with Lalina Vaz, Corporate Citizenship Credit Suisse and Advisory Board Members of Sarthak Educational Trust Gen. Vijay Pawar, Vinita Patil & CP Kapoor, Pune Center Manager Er. Shahzada MD (Aman) amongst others .

Sarthak provides free of cost skill training to Divyans in all major cities of India, namely New Delhi (4), Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Lucknow,

Amalga, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Jaipur, Kolkata, Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Virar, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Thane, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum & have trained and placed 34300+ and 23450+ divyans respectively with the support of our 2000+ corporate partners.

We have empowered 4452+ PwDs in the state of Maharashtra so far

The courses on offer include IT/ITES, retail, hospitality, e-commerce, telemarketing in the last 7 years of Pune center, it alone has trained 1618+ and placed 910+ young people with disabilities in leading corporate houses. And, it is a matter of pride in sharing that they have actually started giving back to society.

Being a long-term prominent partner, Credit Suisse supported the PAN India

Vocational training & employment project for PwDs wherein 2000 candidates have been trained and have become job-ready whereas 1400 PwD candidates have been successfully placed in leading corporate houses such as Amazon, Wipro, KPMG, TCS & Big-Basket to name a few.

Moreover, Credit Suisse has been supporting in running the Thane center for the last 3 years and also contributed substantially to our dream project, the first of its kind - Sarthak Global Resource Center in Gurugram, Haryana for infrastructure creation for Information technology development & international outreach.

Other than physical centres Sarthak also provides a digital support system to PwDs. In December 2021 we have launched an exclusive online

job portal for people with disabilities - Rozgarsarathi. It is accessible to all PwDs across India other than Sarthak trainees as well. For more details, please visit www.rozgarsarathi.org/ui/#/. Innovation at Sarthak is manifold, it provides free-of-cost services such as Counseling, Guidance, Early Intervention, Education, Skill development, Employment, Career Growth and even Matrimonial Alliances through CapSarathi mobile application (In partnership with Cag Gemini) which is available in 11 languages. And, first of its kind - Sarthak Global Resource Centre is under construction in Gurugram, Haryana which will be a one-stop hub for all disability-related needs including medical support and skill-building. sarthakindia.org/sgrc

"We focus on teachers as much as on our students," says Rajesh Bhatia

Pune (P&V news service): Teachers are the bedrock of our education system but often they have to deal with inadequate resources, dated infrastructure, and excessive workload. This could lead to burnout or an inability to keep up with the diverse needs of the students. Rajesh Bhatia, the founder of online and offline preschool chain TreeHouse says, "When I was ideating TreeHouse, I thought from the perspective of a parent and asked myself just what kind of a teacher I would want

for my own child. I also realised that the conventional system of education demands too much from teachers and does not really support their practice, and everyday needs in the classroom. This is one of the reasons why we focus on teachers as much as on our students at TreeHouse.' TreeHouse, says Bhatia, works hard to ensure that teachers are well-equipped with digital tools and offline teaching resources and also undergo teacher training programs to update their skills.

Bhatia explains, "The foundational years are the most critical for a child and so we have a teacher training program for Kindergarten teachers. They are trained in early childhood education (ECE) and care once a week and this goes on for a whole year and then a diploma is issued. If undertaking such a long program in person is not possible then an online module is also available. Teachers also have practical and theory classes in the preschool and they get insights into child psychology

and the best behavioural techniques to deal with young children patiently. They also learn art and craft which helps them to engage with the children. And because our curriculum is slightly different, they learn the methodologies we use."

Bhatia feels that valuing the contributions of teachers is also an important priority and at TreeHouse, educators are given the respect and attention they deserve so that they can give their best to the students.

How To Cope with Stress While You Quit Smoking

Pune (P&V news service): What triggers your desire to smoke? Anger? Boredom? Fatigue? Happiness? You can associate all these feelings with smoking, but stress and anger can set themselves apart as smoking triggers.

When you're nervous, the need to smoke can be intense. You could think you need cigarettes to keep your cool, but smoking tends to cause more stress than it solves. Also, in today's time with technological intervention in healthcare, people can now get genetic testing to learn their nicotine dependency and predisposition of lung related diseases. This will help them to quit smoking and make lifestyle modifications to reduce the risk, if any.

It goes on to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused millions of smokers to quit smoking. This is because the risk of Covid is higher in smokers. Smoking is an established risk factor for respiratory infections, including the flu. It weakens the immunity against viral infection. Nearly, 60% of smokers worldwide want to quit smoking, but only 30% of the world's population has access to quality tobacco cessation services.

According to Indus Health Plus data 7% of the population continue to smoke, and about 3% have smoked in the past but are now no longer smoking. For tobacco consumption, the study revealed that 8% were in the habit of tobacco chewing/consumption, and 2% no longer consume these products.

Learning how to cope with stress without smoking is hard, especially when you quit smoking for the first time. With a few tools and a bit of practice, however, you will find it less difficult than you might have anticipated.

Recovering From Nicotine Addiction
The healing of nicotine addiction has two major components. Physical with-

drawal of nicotine and healing of the ceremonial spirit associated with smoking.

Managing Nicotine Withdrawal: Your body physically reacts to nicotine withdrawal and the thousands of chemicals in the cigarette smoke you inhale. This recovery phase creates its own stress that you need to be ready to handle. Having an awareness of the place of stress as a by-product of early recovery from nicotine addiction and some tools to address discomfort will help you manage it successfully.

Tackling Mental Challenges: Emotionally, quitting smoking forces you to deal with losing cigarettes as a crutch you relied on to manage your feelings. Mental difficulties can be one of the toughest aspects of quitting smoking.

Managing Stress When Quitting Nicotine

Be patient with yourself and give it time for the recovery process to show results. The release of nicotine addiction happens over time. It happens when you erase old associations and habits one by one, replacing them with new, healthier choices. Over time, you'll probably find that stress is easier to manage smoke-free than it ever was when you smoked. Here are a few practices that will make quitting less challenging:

Eat properly balanced food: Your body needs good-quality fuel, as it works to remove toxins from your system. Cigarettes deplete many nutrients and vitamins, so you will need to focus on eating a well-balanced meal.

Drink water: Water can help you quit smoking. It helps you detox faster and can work well as a vacuum buster. Staying hydrated is good for your body as well.

Cut Out Caffeine: When you stop smoking, the amount of caffeinated cof-

fee or soda you consume can add to your anxiety and stress. Once you are through the withdrawal process, you will probably be able to drink coffee again, if you choose, but perhaps not in the same quantity as you did before.

Take a Warm Bath: Enjoying a bath is a great way to calm down and relax. Ignite a few candles, use scented bath salts, and sink into your bathtub. One study found that those who bathed regularly improved their mental and physical health. Having a bath in hot water can reduce tiredness and irritability, which are the two common symptoms of nicotine withdrawal.

Get a Massage: Our bodies tend to keep the tension we feel in our muscles, so a good massage is worth its weight in gold to alleviate stress. Ask your partner a masseuse to help you get rid of the stress from your muscles. A full body massage is awesome, but even 10 to 15 minutes spent on your neck, shoulders, face, and scalp can do wonders. You can also try an auto massage tool such as a massage pistol or even a massage cushion.

Get Enough Sleep: The first few days of smoking cessation can be tiring because your body and mind are stressed. Research has shown that the less you smoke, the less tired you will feel. One study revealed that fatigue among people who quit smoking peaked after six weeks and then declined.

Our minds can make small problems look big and turn each small thing into a complex issue especially when our emotions are out of control. If you have a bad day, stop and re-centre. Be good to yourself, indulge (or both) and keep your emotions from getting better of yourself. Tomorrow is a new day, you will feel better, and you will be happy to be smokeless again.

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Airtel Payments Bank strengthens its digital bank portfolio

Pune (P&V news service): Adding to its digital banking product portfolio, Airtel Payments Bank has started offering easy access to credit to its customers. The bank customers can now apply for a gold loan from Muthoot Finance within a minute on the Airtel Thanks app.

With this partnership, Airtel Payments Bank customers can get hassle-free gold loans with Zero processing fees from Muthoot Finance. Offering maximum value, Muthoot Finance gives as high as 75% of the pledged gold value as a loan. Customers get doorstep disbursements for loan amounts of INR 50,000 and above. Gold loans can be obtained by anyone by pledging gold jewelry they own against

financial aid. This removes the hassle of breaking an existing investment, especially for a short-term requirement. The loan amount can be used for any personal or work-related requirement. In addition, the gold is kept safe by the institution till the loan is paid off. Through Airtel Thanks app, customers can apply for small loan amounts starting from INR 3000 and for a small duration starting from a minimum of seven days. The flexible payment option allows the customer to make part payments or complete payments before the maturity date with no additional charges. Customers can also apply for a Gold Loan by visiting the 500,000 neighbourhood banking points for

Airtel Payments Bank.

Mr. Ganesh Ananthanarayanan - Chief Operating Officer, Airtel Payments Bank said, "Gold Loans are secured loans that can be availed to cater to a variety of needs, from personal to professional. We are delighted to partner with Muthoot Finance to offer easy access to Gold Loans through Airtel Thanks App. The flexible payback facility offered by Muthoot Finance makes it a great solution for customers who are looking for either short or long-term loans. We are positive that our customers will benefit from the same."

Speaking about the partnership, Mr. Alexander George Muthoot, Joint Managing Director of Muthoot Finance

said, "We are excited to join hands with Airtel Payments Bank to bring an effective and inclusive lending solution for customers. The partnership will give access to secured and affordable credit to customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets. We are happy to serve an extensive range of customers across various geographies and ticket sizes."

Apply for Gold Loan in three simple steps: 1. Login to Airtel Thanks App and go to the Banking section.

2. Click on the Gold Loan icon and enter the required information (location, loan amount, and tenure)

3. Give required permissions to share details with Muthoot Finance team

Citi inaugurates two new facilities in Citi Solutions Centers Network

Pune (P&V news service): Citi announced the inauguration of state-of-the-art workspaces in Chennai and Pune under its Citi Solutions Centers (CSCs) network.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified incremental spaces, spread across approx. 420,000 sq. ft. at the existing locations at DLF Cybercity, Chennai and EON IT Park, Pune, will augment the capacity to service global clientele of Citi.

The spaces were inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer, Citi India, Ashu Khullar; Chief Information Officer and Head of Operations and Technology, Asia Pacific, Citi, Stacey N. Lacy; in the presence of Head of South Asia Operations & Technology, Citi, Balaji Nuthalapati.

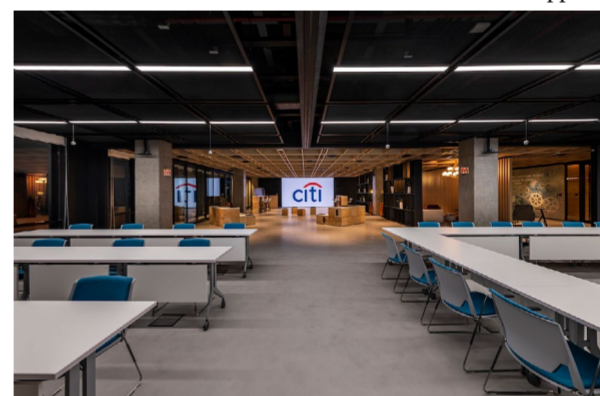
The Chennai and Pune locations provide solutions for Technology, Operations, An-

alytics, Finance, Risk and allied services for Institutional Clients, as well as Personal Banking and Wealth Management businesses across Citi. Citi also has CSCs in

banking products and superior client experiences," said Mr. Khullar.

"Our global CSC network, including our centers in India, are critical to support-

ing our clients globally and serving them with excellence. The expansion of our CSC premises in India signals our commitment to hiring the best talent as our businesses pursue growth and work with clients in the digital age. We are focused on developing



Bengaluru, Gurugram and Mumbai.

"The augmented workspaces will complement the existing facilities as we scale up to support over 4,000 additional seats. This will drive forward Citi's digital strategy, delivering market-leading digital

the next-generation of talent to further innovate, leverage new skills and deliver the best of Citi to our clients," said Mrs. Lacy.

"At Citi, we're redefining the future of banking by nurturing innovation and excellence. The new workspaces feature a modern floorplan fostering a collaborative environment to Ideate, Innovate and Incubate," shared Mr. Nuthalapati.

CSC in India house teams across Personal Banking and Wealth Management, Markets & Securities, Risk & Capital Management, Cash Management, Treasury and Trade Solutions, Mobile Technology, Compliance & Surveillance Technology, Finance and Risk Shared Services, amongst others. Citi continues to strive to offer the best digital banking experience to internal and external clients across the globe.

All Eaton India sites certified as zero water discharge

Pune (P&V news service): In alignment with its 2030 sustainability targets, power management company Eaton announced that all its facilities in India are now zero water discharge certified.

Mukul Kadam, sub-regional manager, EHS corporate Eaton, said, "Eaton has always been committed to a culture of sustainability. Our dedication has enabled us to integrate sustainability into our business activities, allow employees and communities to realize the benefits of a sustainable future, and make Eaton a preferred employer around the world." He added, "Our plants are concentrated on reducing waste generation within the plant by recycling and re-using. We have reviewed and understood the needs for zero water discharge process and used the pre-defined checklist to identify gaps and fill them

in with the right solutions. Overall, these certifications are a step further in Eaton's commitment to improving people's lives and the environment."

As India has been identified as one of the water-stressed countries and a focus area for water conservation, Eaton is committed to adhering to the strict government guidelines around water usage and conservation. To reduce its water and waste, Eaton is doing the following activities:
Across the sites, the company has implemented regular maintenance of the sewage treatment plant, regular water leak inspection, flowmeters in identified lines, periodic training for all applicable employees, and implementation of water improvement projects.
Eaton recycles HT fixtures in the plants to reduce the use of new materials. Most Eaton sites follow green

supply chain management, educate their suppliers and vendors on sustainability, and cascade the best practices implemented in all locations.

The Eaton India Foundation's water resource management program enables the conservation and management of water resources in the areas most affected by water scarcity. The program works toward repairing the existing water structures in rural areas and providing sustainable livelihoods.

Eaton employees from the Ahmednagar vehicle group plant have been instrumental in creating stone bunds for local communities. Stone bunds are effective tools to help rural communities to retain moisture in the soil for longer, which helps to alleviate water stress during dry spells.

In order to become certified as zero water dis-

charge, sites must consistently achieve an industrial wastewater discharge rate of 2% or less. Eaton has manufacturing facilities in Ahmednagar, Ranjangaon, Pondicherry, Chennai, Coimbatore, and Bangalore. Eaton is an intelligent power management company dedicated to improving the quality of life and protecting the environment for people everywhere. We are guided by our commitment to do business right, to operate sustainably and to help our customers manage power today and well into the future. By capitalizing on the global growth trends of electrification and digitalization, we're accelerating the planet's transition to renewable energy, helping to solve the world's most urgent power management challenges, and doing what's best for our stakeholders and all of society.

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs



Pune (P&V news service): Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs.

The MoU was signed by Shri Lal

Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME.

The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused

areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele.

Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

SBI General launches a new health vertical with a vision of broadening access to quality and affordable healthcare across India



Pune (P&V news service):- SBI General Insurance, one of India's leading general insurers unveiled its new health insurance vertical. The launch of the new vertical was announced in the presence of Shri Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director (IB, T & S), State Bank of India and Shri PC Kandpal, MD & CEO, SBI General Insurance, in Pune. The company aims to leverage the expansive footprint

and network of its parent company State Bank of India to further entrench health insurance penetration in Tier 3 and 4 markets across India, thereby offer affordable and comprehensive health insurance products. The company announced that through the vertical, it will manage in-house servicing of all health insurance claims to deliver a superior and hassle-free customer experience.

Shri Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director (IB, T&S), State Bank of India, said "The industry has witnessed a significant rise in the demand for health insurance, especially in the wake of the pandemic. In this scenario, I am glad that SBI General is scaling their focus on health insurance business through this new health insurance vertical. The core objective behind this new

step is to make health care available across the length and breadth of the country at an affordable cost. It is of utmost importance to increase the penetration of health care in tier 3 & 4, which will be enabled through SBI's distribution strength. With all the enablers we are aiming for SBI General to be among the top three general insurance companies for health in next three years."

Speaking on the launch Shri PC Kandpal, MD & CEO, SBI General said "The launch of the new health insurance vertical will enable us to meet the rising demand of health insurance, and to provide best-in-class customer service.

Through this vertical, we will manage all health-related claims in-house, thereby enhancing the customer experience and will be able to reach

the market segments with a dedicated health sales agency. We will continue our product innovation journey and introduce need-based health insurance products that cater to the evolving customer needs. We will also expand our strategic partnerships to strengthen our network of providers, thereby benefiting customers across the country."

The pandemic has underscored the importance of health insurance and staying financially secured against health conditions that emerge across different life-stages. With the growing demand for health insurance, SBI General has witnessed a growth in adoption of its health insurance products. It has also recorded a strong performance in the health insurance segment with a 50% growth in GWP in FY 21-22.

ŠKODA AUTO INDIA MAINTAINS SALES MOMENTUM WITH 4604 UNITS SOLD IN MAY 22



Pune (P&V news service):- After completing update of showrooms with innovative, immersive, fully-digital world-class features the previous week, the high numbers saga continues with ŠKODA AUTO India recording 4604 units of sales in May 2022. This is yet another high month of sales and yet another continuous

run of massive year-on-year growth month after month. The sales in May 2022 is humungous compared to the 716 cars sold in May 2021. This is a jump of 543% year-on-year keeping the company on track to making this the Biggest Year for ŠKODA AUTO in India. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, ŠKODA AUTO India, said,

"It is heartening for us at ŠKODA that despite challenges posed by the semiconductor shortage, we are maintaining momentum with sales. Our innovative efforts to ensure our customers are not put through long waiting periods and take delivery of cars faster than wait times prevailing in the industry has been a key factor in our consistency. I would like to thank our network employees and customers for their tremendous support in achieving such incredible annual sales growth."

The SLAVIA and the KUSH-AQ, the stars of INDIA 2.0 based on the made-for-India MQB-A0-IN platform,

have already contributed to record sales for the company. Besides which, ŠKODA AUTO India -- in addition to increasing customer touchpoints -- have standardised radical changes in their showrooms bringing in First-in-India digitisation, interactive and immersive features for customers who visit ŠKODA showrooms in the country. These measures have bought more customers across the geography of the country closer to a ŠKODA touchpoint, and the new innovative showrooms have made the comparing, selecting and buying process of a ŠKODA an interactive, informative and engaging affair.

Ahead of World Environment Day, Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge



Pune (P&V news service):- Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets.

Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to €7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050.

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has al-

ready invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021.

Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

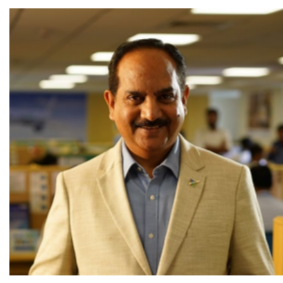
Recently, Blue Dart received an 'A'-band certification for its ESG performance and this mirrors every step it has taken towards improving the environment we operate in and for social welfare as a whole. We take this one step ahead by pledging to work to become climate neutral by signing the Climate Neutral Now pledge by the UNFCCC."

Balfour Manuel, Managing Director, Blue Dart, says, "We are extremely proud to pledge our support towards the UNFCCC. All our decisions are taken to serve one purpose: 'Connecting People, Improving Lives'. We are delighted to

be a forerunner in initiatives that promote environmental conservation, social welfare and most importantly we are constantly working towards achieving clean operations to protect against climate change.

The pledge enables us to quantify the impact of our initiatives, guided by the Sustainability Roadmap that we are aligned to, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group." He adds, "As an ESG compliant organisation, India's Trade Facilitator and an Employer of Choice, we understand our responsibility. When corporates start consciously choosing products and services that are more compatible with nature while ensuring the protection of human rights, they send out a loud and clear message of consciously choosing the planet and its people. This is where the importance of sustainability is highlighted. With a clear strategy to guide us and a purpose to drive us, we are acting today to make a lasting positive impact on tomorrow."

Blue Dart has always remained one step ahead of the curve, and fervently aided sustainability efforts. The organisation works towards providing long-term sustainability and shows corporate responsibility through several initiatives that help the environment as well as the communities it operates in. Following the Sustainability Roadmap that the express logistics major, as a part of the DPDHL Group, aligns itself with, Blue Dart works



towards clean operations for climate protection (Environment), being a great company to work for all (Social) as well as being a highly trusted company (Governance). Complying with the ESG requirements it continues to innovate in this area in order to reach its goal of being a Sustainable Logistics Provider of Choice.

Blue Dart actively works towards fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN through many initiatives that fall under its three pillars of corporate responsibility - GoGreen, GoTeach and GoHelp. Under each category, the company ensures that it is constantly giving back to society and protecting the environment.

The organization aims to achieve Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050 under the 'Mission 2050' target set by the DPDHL Group. Since 2017, Blue Dart has been planting 111,000 trees every year amounting to 555,000 trees till date which will offset 1,11,00,000 of CO2 on maturity. The company is committed to playing a leading role in driving sustainability and is setting the standard for the future of the logistics industry.

Pure Storage Inaugurates New India R&D Center in Bangalore



Pune (P&V news service):- Pure Storage (NYSE: PSTG), the IT pioneer that delivers the world's most advanced data storage technology and services, today inaugurated its new India Research and Development Center in Bangalore. Attended by Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayan, Minister for Higher Education; IT & BT, Science & Technology; Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood, Government of Karnataka, India, the new center is a key component of Pure's global innovation engine and a commitment to the government's "Make in India" initiative.

The center will focus on innovations that transform storage and data management. These are areas in which India can play a global role. The acceleration of digital transformation around the world is fueling the growth of data, specifically unstructured data such as video, picture and audio files. This is creating de-

mand for professionals who are experts in solutions that store, manage, protect and analyze such data.

A new study conducted by Pure Storage with market research by Zinnov, a management consulting firm, indicated that there are over 700,000 professionals in India with the relevant data management skills. This is around 14 percent of the total technology workforce in the country and is poised to grow further.

In relation to the rest of the world, India makes up more than 10 percent of the worldwide talent pool of data management professionals and more than a quarter of Asia Pacific. Even more encouraging is the fact that more than three-quarters of the existing Indian talent will reach an advanced level in their experience in 5 years, which puts India in a good place as a source for data management skills.

"We are excited to see another



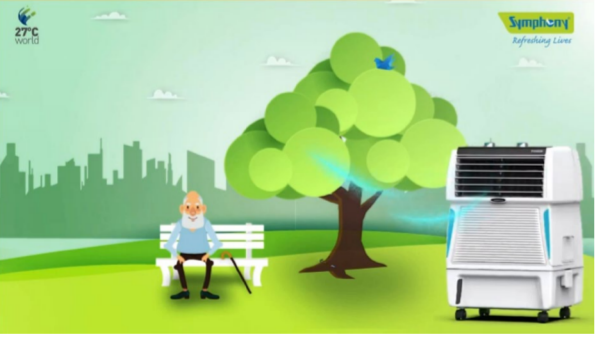
leading global technology company commit to investment in India and the Karnataka region. Pure Storage is providing an opportunity for Indian talent to contribute to technologies that are in demand around the world," said Dr. Narayan. "India has long been a source of technical talent and we have to stay ahead of the game. With data continuing to grow in volume and complexity, the skills to manage, protect and move it around in hybrid and multi-cloud environments, will become even more in demand and it's important for Karnataka to be involved in this movement."

"Innovation is at the core of everything that we do. We strongly believe that talent knows no boundaries and can be found across all regions. This approach encourages a culture of inclusivity, new ways of thinking, customer centricity and provides an opportunity to develop skills to build products across the

globe. The India R&D center will further foster data management capabilities in India while ensuring Pure's global customers benefit from this abundance of talent," said Ajay Singh, Chief Product Officer, Pure Storage.

Pure Storage has a robust portfolio of data management solutions which include FlashArray, FlashBlade, FlashStack, AIRI, Pure as-a-Service, Portworx, Pure1, Evergreen, Pure Cloud Block Store and Purity. The India R&D Center will contribute to the continued innovation in most of these product lines. It will be run with the same start-up mindset designed to encourage a culture of innovation and customer-centricity. This philosophy has translated into Pure Storage being recognized as an employer of choice with 92 percent of employees saying that it is a great place to work compared with the average of 59 percent for other US-based companies.

Symphony's latest campaign draws synergies between air coolers and conservation of trees



Pune (P&V news service):- With World Environment Day just around the corner, India's most loved and trusted air cooler brand, Symphony Limited has launched a heart-warming digital campaign to create awareness on the need to protect and conserve our planet. With technology making our lives simpler and more convenient, it has proved to be a hazard to our environment. Our oceans are depleting, global temperature is on a constant rise, wildlife is impacted, and the surface of the earth is drying! Resonating with this thought, the brand has come up with a digital campaign to bring about change and consciousness among the patrons with a compelling message. It draws synergies between the

use of air coolers and conservation of trees.

The campaign film shows an old man walking on a parched land and a bird flying in the sky with the sun blazing up above. They both need some respite from the tormenting heat and then at a distance, they spot a tree! As they approach closer, much to their shock the tree is dry and bare. In another visual, a boy is shown switching on an air cooler with refreshing air going out of the window and transforming the entire scenery to a lush green landscape. With the trees turning green, birds chirping, and the man seeking refuge in the shade of the tree, the campaign resonates emotionally and ends with a strong message. For every unit of Symphony air

cooler that one uses instead of an air conditioner, we save 40 trees!

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Anuj Arora, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Symphony Limited says, "Symphony is a highly responsible brand when it comes to conservation of our planet earth and adhering to all measures to prevent any damage to the environment. With this campaign, our objective is to educate the consumers that they should be mindful of the environmental side effects of their choices and how adapting to sustainable ways of cooling can lead to a positive change. Additionally, our recent studies and research findings have shown that air coolers as a category are more environment-friendly and conducive. It is about time we brought about a change and conserve our planet."

During the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) summit held last year, most of the countries committed to cut emissions to net zero and reach carbon neutrality by 2060. Symphony has also taken a step in that direction

to contribute to the cause. They partnered with Infinite Solutions, an Environment and Sustainability Consulting Company, for a study to understand the GHG emissions that happen at an organizational level for the production and sales of air coolers. While achieving carbon neutrality is a long-term goal, Symphony has been making conscious efforts in the past. The brand has planted trees across its premises, adopted 11,000 square meters of wasteland and developed a forest park with over 25,000 plants. This has helped emission reduction of 136.35 tCO2/year!

As per Statista, specializing in research for market and consumer data, the reports highlights that the total sale of air conditioners in the last 5 years (From 2018 to 2022) is approx. 3.33 Cr. If consumers would have purchased these many coolers instead of air conditioners, we could have saved approx. 140 Cr trees (42 x 3.33 Cr). It is about time we assumed collective responsibility to access and comprehend the irreparable damage we are doing to our planet.

Vitesco Technologies aims to achieve 100% carbon neutral production by 2030



Pune (P&V news service):- Vitesco Technologies a leading international manufacturer of modern drive technologies and electrification solutions recently celebrated the second anniversary of its Pune facility. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Braun, Senior Vice President of Operations at Vitesco Technologies, visited the facility to commemorate the occasion. The facility is spread across 20 acres and contains more than 17580 m2 of manufacturing space, including over 900 employees. The Pune plant, like all Vitesco Technologies facilities, serves its grid demand entirely through renewable energy sources. Furthermore, the site generates sustainable electricity. All new photovoltaic systems have been built in the Talegaon facility, generating 03 GWh of electricity from solar energy. The installed

capacity is currently 2.6 MW, with the company aiming to increase it to 3.6MW by the end of the year. The facility is also strongly driving automation, digitization, and Industry 4.0, with over 25 cobots and robots installed on the production lines and shopfloor.

During his tour of the facility, Dr. Hans-Jürgen Braun-Head of Operations at Vitesco Technologies said "We have a clear vision of the key characteristics of the plant of the future, which are sustainable, smart, and predictive. And our plant in Pune already embodies these qualities with highly automated production lines, state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 solutions and a strong focus on sustainability. But what is most important for me is the highly motivated team, because I genuinely believe that people, not only technology, will shape the plant of the future. I am very impressed with India's business competency and the employees' enthusiasm to support us on this journey."

Dr. Braun further highlighted that "The carbon footprint must be dramatically decreased to combat climate change, which is one of the major issues of our time. We must take on responsibility for our environment. As a

result, the plant of the future must be climate-neutral in operation. That is why I am proud that the plant in Pune has truly established itself as a driver of sustainability. Vitesco Technologies' clean and efficient electrification solutions contribute significantly to the environment. Therefore, it is equally important that they are manufactured in a sustainable and resource-efficient manner. As a result, Vitesco Technologies has pledged to dramatically cut its carbon footprint and achieve 100% carbon neutral production by 2030. To achieve carbon neutrality, the company lowered CO2 emissions from 10,000 T to 0.2 T within a year.

Mr. Anurag Garg, Managing Director and Country Head, Vitesco Technologies India said "India is seeing an increase in demand for sustainable mobility. Our goal at Vitesco Technologies is to create innovative and efficient electrification technologies in India for all types of vehicles. In addition, we aspire to build a plant of the future that is more sustainable, smart, and predictive. Several innovative projects, particularly at our Pune facility, are being undertaken in this regard. These projects within our manufacturing network on digitization, au-

tomation, and sustainability will help to shape the Plant of the Future. I believe that The plant of the future will be smart in all aspects. On the one hand, digitalization, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence can achieve a higher degree of automation in production and supply chain activities. Employees, on the other hand, can make better and faster decisions based on the generated data. A digitally connected ecosystem is emerging under continuous improvement to become more competitive and productive. Through this smart interconnection of people, all systems and the data generated from it, we will be able to forecast trends and events."

Vitesco Technologies' vision of the plant of the future strives to address technological, geopolitical, sociological, and climatic change challenges that affect not just the automobile industry but also society. The company intends to actively drive the transformation of manufacturing and supply chain management in the country. The objective of the initiative is to paint a picture of how Vitesco Technologies will fulfil the demands of tomorrow's manufacturing using innovative concepts and future technologies.