



NFT support on Facebook will be a game-changer

Pune (Voice news service):- Meta, which was formerly known as Facebook, has launched digital collectibles support on Facebook with select creators after launching NFT support on Instagram. It has introduced a new tab called 'digital collectibles', under which the creator can display his/her NFTs. However, creators will not be allowed to cross-post on Facebook and Instagram, nor will they be able to turn digital collectible

posts into ads. There are no fees associated with posting or sharing a digital collectible. Needless to add, the news has created a buzz in the NFT - cryptocurrency world. Tapan Sangal, founder and chief evangelist of P2E Pro, welcomes the news of NFT finding a place on Facebook. He says, "If Meta has launched support for NFTs on Facebook, it will lead to a surge in interest in the world of NFTs and cryptocurrency."

Tata Motors Group global wholesales at 3,16,443 in Q1 FY23

Pune (Voice news service):- The Tata Motors Group global wholesales in Q1FY23, including Jaguar Land Rover, were at 3,16,443nos., higher by 48%, as compared to Q1FY22. Global wholesales of all Tata Motors' commercial vehicles and Tata Daewoo range in Q1FY23 were at 1,03,529nos., higher by 97%, over Q1FY22. Global wholesales of all passenger vehicles in Q1FY23 were at 2,12,914nos., higher by 32% as compared to Q1FY22. Global wholesales for Jaguar Land Rover were 82,587 vehicles (**JLR number for Q1 FY23 includes CJLR volumes of 10,772 units). Jaguar wholesales for the quarter were 14,596 vehicles, while Land Rover wholesales for the quarter were 67,991 vehicles.

Gera Pune Residential Realty Report for the period of January 2022 to June 2022



Pune (Voice news service):- The residential real estate segment gained significant momentum in the first half of 2022. In a bid to meet the supply deficit in Pune's residential realty market triggered by stalling of projects due to Covid-19 pandemic, developers continued the trend of an increased number of new homes being brought to the market as per the Gera realty Report. For the half year ending Jun'21, a total of 26,611 units were brought to the market. This has risen by 106% to 54,845 homes being brought to market in the first half of 2022. For the 12 months from July 2020 - July 2021, a total of 64,671 homes were brought to the market. This increased by 80% to 1,15,996 homes brought to the market between July 2021-June 2022 and is the highest number of homes launched over a 12-month period into the Pune market. Explaining the overall trend in the market, Mr. Rohit

Gera, Managing Director, Gera Developments, said, "After years of prices falling, we have now seen home prices continue to rise for the last 2 years. This is a good sign as affordability continues to be near all-time highs as well. Sales and new project launches are at all-time highs. The last 12 months saw more than 1.15 lakh homes being brought to market and over 1.05 lakh homes being sold. Both numbers are all time high records. The luxury segment too, saw an increase in sales and new launches - in fact to compensate for the years of being in the doldrums. While on one hand, we saw

Dabur Rheumatil lends Health Support to Warkaris during the Pandharpur Yatra

Enters India & Asia Book of Records for maximum Foot Massages in a day



Pune (Voice news service):- The world's largest Ayurvedic products maker Dabur India Limited today announced a mega social initiative by organizing Ayurvedic Health Camps for Waari Yatris en-route their holy journey for reach the temple town of Pandharpur, to have a glimpse of Lord Vitthal. Special Health Camps being organized at the various places to these yatris which will offer services like Health checkups, Ayurvedic foot and back massage through Dabur Rheumatil oil. "We are happy to share that Dabur Rheumatil has entered the India and Asia Book of Records for conducting the highest number of message in a particular time frame at a particular place. The devotees of Pandharpur Wari were given foot massages by using Dabur Rheumatil Oil on the occasion of Ashadhi Ekadasi.

The attempt was performed as a part of the campaign 'Chalte Raho-Keep Walking Pain-Free' at Bhandishegaon, Pandharpur, Maharashtra" Mr. Suman Mukherjee, Sr. Manager, Dabur India Ltd Said. Under this initiative, Ayurvedic doctors have been stationed at these camps, offering curative, preventive and promotive healthcare services to the millions of pilgrims during the Yatra. Wari yatra of pilgrims known as Pandharpur Ashadi Ekadasi Waari Yatra culminates at Pandharpur in Solapur district in south Maharashtra situated on the banks of the Chandrbhaga River Pandharpur is main center of worship of the deity Vitthoba. "With our strong 138-year-old heritage, we feel privileged to take care and make

elaborate arrangements for the movement of 'warkaris' during the yatra, which attracts over 2.5 million devotees from all over the country. Dabur is committed to its motto of being dedicated to the Health & Well-Being of every household. We are excited to be a part of this social cause. This unique initiative seeks to ensure a safe journey and effective health care for the devotees during their Yatra." Dabur India Ltd Ethical Marketing Head- Dr. Durga Prasad said.



TKM inaugurates Toyota Used Car Outlet (TUCO)

Pune (Voice news service):- Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today inaugurated the Toyota Used Car Outlet (TUCO) at Bangalore, as it becomes the first auto manufacturer in India to offer fully OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) refurbished used car to the customer. With the signature 'MARU MARU' signifying 'high quality precision cleaning' exclusive to Toyota, with TUCO, TKM reinstates its commitment to creating a transparent and reliable used car market for Toyota customers across India. This facility will Buy & Sell only Toyota pre-owned cars. The company has started its pilot operations in Bangalore and plans to expand in future. Every Toyota used car will undergo a detailed inspection at the TKM workshop, prior to Toyota's superior

refurbishment, to determine the current quality standard of the car thereby ensuring highest levels of Quality & Reliability for the end users of the product. Expressing his delight on this significant announcement, Mr. Vikram Kirloskar, Vice Chairman, TKM said, "India's used car market continues to grow rapidly every year and TUCO represents our commitment to developing a fair and transparent used car market with increased reliability for our customers and to the Indian society as a whole. Our focus will be to offer our customers with the best quality refurbished cars with convenience, transparency, and value for money. We are committed towards creating a reliable and transparent used car market which will enable faster disposal of cars at right prices and right quality to the buyers."

Merlin Group forays into Pune Realty Market

Launches 18 - East - a plush commercial project at Koregaon Park Annexe



Pune (Voice news service):- Merlin Group, One of the nation's leading real estate conglomerates focused on highly sustainable projects with a strong presence in eastern India and across some major states, has announced formally the entry of the group in the burgeoning Pune realty market. The group is all set to change the skyline of the city with an

array of ambitious projects across the length and breadth of the vibrant city. Merlin group is one of the most trusted brands for nearly four decades and developers of over 20 million sq. ft. of projects in Kolkata alone with presence in Chennai, Raipur, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar and Colombo, Sri Lanka. The group has established its trust and credibility across

the country and beyond. It has gone beyond buildings to win hearts and change lives through superior technology and quality craftsmanship. The group is planning to set its footprint in the real estate landscape of Pune with over 30 lac sq. ft. of proposed inventory. The group is coming up with a host of premium residential and commercial projects in Koregaon Park Annexe, Wakad, Baner and Jambhulwadi. Announcing the entry in Pune realty market, Mr. Saket Mohta, Managing Director, Merlin Group said, "Pune is one of the fastest growing cities in India and holds tremendous potential for economic and industrial growth. The city has rightly earned the title of Oxford of

the East for being the hub of education and Engineering and automotive companies are sprouting in the city. With Pune emerging as a major IT hub, the city now attracts thousands of professionals, driving up demand for retail housing. The ambitious Pune development plan will also provide a fillip to real estate prospects with developers expected to see more traction. Developers are already exploring acquisition of land parcels for development in these new locations around Pune that have been earmarked. Merlin as a leading real estate player in East and other parts of India, is poised to leverage this growth and promises to add to the skyline of the most promising city in India.

TiE Pune Nurture Mentoring Program for Entrepreneurs Goes Global



Pune (Voice news service):- What started in 2007 as a local initiative following Silicon Valley to help budding entrepreneurs succeed, has now come a full circle. A completely home-grown program. TiE Pune Nurture mentoring program for entrepreneurs, is now being offered across the globe to all the 62 TiE chapters worldwide. Nurture is the largest Pro Bono Accelerator in India right now. Says Kiran Deshpande, Board Member, TiE Global, "10 years ago a few of our TiE Pune Charter Members decided to create a mentorship program that would help start-ups. Unlike what you learn in business schools, what we did

was to use our real-life experience to help entrepreneurs. Nowhere can you get to learn the ropes of the game from experienced entrepreneurs as in Nurture does. And that is what differentiates our program from the rest. Over 250 entrepreneurs have gone through TiE Nurture in past 10 years. Starting with mere 4 startups in 2012, TiE Pune Nurture-10 had over 60 entrepreneurs from Pune, Hubli, Nagpur, Surat and Madhya Pradesh. Contributing to the global initiative, organized mentoring is being extended globally to all TiE chapters. TiE Pune Nurture will play a significant role in this initiative that will assimilate

programs from other chapters such as TiE Scale-It from Boston, TiE Dubai mentoring, TiE Atlanta COBA and TiE Institute created by TiE-Seattle. While the Nurture is becoming a global program, TiE Pune has helped put two local businesswomen on the global map. Dr. Parul Ganju (Ahammune Biosciences Pvt. Ltd) and Dr. Anuya Nisal (Serigen Mediproducs) participated and won in the TiE Women's Global Pitch Competition. Both were finalists at global level with Dr. Parul Ganju winning the runner-up prize of \$25,000 and Dr. Anuya Nisal declared as the winner of the India com-

petition and among global finalists. Both accessed the business networks across all the 62 TiE chapters enhancing their Pune-based companies to the global level. Says Zelam Chaula who heads the TiE Women's initiative, "we at TiE believe women entrepreneurs need to be supported to the fullest to realize their true potential. Besides the many things we do for them, we also run a special women's only global competition which has reaped rich dividends for two of our Pune women entrepreneurs, Dr. Parul Ganju and Dr. Anuya Nisal. TiE Pune is firmly committed to doing all we can to help our women.

Fidel Softech IPO receives good investor response



Pune (Voice news service):- Fidel Softech Limited, a Pune-based LangTech company went public on the NSE SME Exchange on June 10. The IPO was oversubscribed by 102 times and was very well received by the investors.

This is the 70th Anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan & hence very special for us. Localization is globally a 26 billion USD market and India is well poised to contribute to it. Further, by focusing on language-centric technical consulting services & digital financial literacy solutions, Fidel supports the govt vision of bridging the digital divide. By bringing Technology-Languages-Consulting together, Fidel offers a one-stop solution to its clients. "Mrs. Prachi Kulkarni, Managing Director, said that "this is a step to increase the pace of growth, open new markets, attract talent & develop new competencies. She mentioned that this also was a step to further strengthen security, environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG). Fidel is equal opportunity firm and the team has

had a 50% diversity ratio almost since its inception. Mr. Mandar Inamdar (CFO) mentioned that "this fundraise is to scale the growth and that Fidel is equally focussed on social impact. New job opportunities will be created with an emphasis on tier 2 and 3 cities in India to leverage the local language as well as technology skills. Adequate training in technologies & languages including Japanese will also be provided. "Mr. Sushrut Potdar, Chief Technology Officer, is confident about taking Language Technology expertise to a new landscape. He said "with the proliferation of smartphones, lowering of data packs and growing aspirations, clients are going Global (Global +Local) and hence want to deliver products & services in local language UI / UX using innovative technical solutions. We support these client initiatives and ensure state-of-the-art technology, video-audio solutions, data analytics, multi-lingual SEO, and support 100+ languages including all Indian languages." Fidel Softech Ltd is the latest company from Pune to go public and the rise and gains in Fidel are attributed to investor optimism and are expected to grow in the future.

GoDaddy launches new campaign aimed at giving 'visibility' to Indian small business

Pune (Voice news service):- GoDaddy, the company that empowers everyday entrepreneurs, launched a new India marketing campaign focusing on the benefit of creating an online presence to make business 'visible' around the globe, irrespective of the size and the location. The campaign strives to inspire and empower more women entrepreneurs to go online and make opportunities more inclusive. In the new campaign, the female protagonist is seen exploring a busy, vibrant market street in Jaipur. Disappointed with the negligible state of the small businesses, she steps forward to educate owners towards growing their business by creating a website. Otherwise 'invisible' to millions while being offline only, the campaign TVC focuses on the need of taking businesses online, highlighting how GoDaddy is a one-stop solution and a leading provider of online tools and solutions

and manage their businesses with the help of our online tools and services." The vibrant, light-hearted, and quirky ad has been shot in a Tier-3 town local market set up, resonating with small & medium businesses. Developed and conceptualized by Mumbai-based creative agency Tilt Brand Solutions, the campaign has been rolled out in seven local Indian languages including Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, and Telugu, and will be showcased across media platforms such as TV, POS, Display, OLV, Social & PR. GoDaddy offers an integrated suite of online products ranging from domain names, hosting, website building, email marketing, security protections, and an online store. GoDaddy offers 24/7 customer support, locally and in regional languages, to help guide customers in the growth of their venture, and to find the tools that best meet their needs.

The new India marketing campaign echoes GoDaddy's vision to empower entrepreneurs everywhere to grow independently online



WATCHO App becomes the latest destination for daily K-Dramas



Pune (Voice news service):- WATCHO, one of India's fastest growing OTT platforms and known for providing viewers with new and interesting content, announced to host 34 Korean Web-Series dubbed in Hindi on the platform. With the motto of "#RozanaK-Drama" WATCHO will release 3 hours of Korean content every day from its exhaustive Korean content library. The shows - ranging from drama, action, and romance to sci-fi - promise to keep its millennial viewers entertained and hooked.

With this, WATCHO is one step closer in democratizing international content for mass Indian audiences by offering Korean shows dubbed in Hindi. A total of 650+ hours of Korean content will be released sequentially, with new episodes being streamed on the platform every day. The exciting line-up of shows spans various genres - romance, corporate conspiracies, family drama, fantasy, adventure, and sci-fi amongst others. The first in the line-up is 'Welcome 2 Life', - a fantasy drama that tells the story of a selfish lawyer who helps peo-

ple who want to take advantage of the law. One day, he has a mysterious car accident and is drawn into a parallel world.

In addition to these, the line-up also features some of the leading dramas like 1% of something, Extraordinary You, Kairos, and Flower of Evil among others. Mr. Sukhpreet Singh, Corporate Head - Marketing, DishTV & WATCHO, Dish TV India Ltd., commented on the launch, "Korean content has, of late, made significant inroads into India's mainstream popular culture. And, as the WATCHO base expands, it also becomes imperative that we cater to this growing customer demand. We are thrilled to bring Hindi dubbed Korean content to our audience, helping reach audiences in Tier II and Tier III markets as well." Bringing in a unique assortment of snackable content

cutting across all genres, WATCHO offers many original shows including web series like The Morning Show, Happy, Bauchare-E-Ishq, Happy, Gupta Niwas, Jaunpur, Papa Ka Scooter, Agha, Cheaters - The Vacation, Sarhad, Mystery Dad, JaalSaazi, Dark Destinations, It's My Pleasure, 4 Thieves, Love Crisis, Ardh-satya, Chhoriyan, and Rakhta Chandana along with also having original influencer shows like Look I Can Cook and Bikhare hain Alfaaz. It also has a unique UGC platform called Swag where users can create their original videos and discover their talent. Available across screens (Android & iOS devices, Dish SMRT devices, D2H Magic devices, and Fire TV Stick) and at www.WATCHO.com, WATCHO presently provides over 35 plus original shows, 300 plus exclusive plays, and 100 plus live channels in Hindi, Kannada, and Telugu.

Sharma in top 30, Lahiri hit by wind at Scottish Open

Pune (Voice news service):- A closing bogey pulled India's Shubhankar Sharma down from a promising two-under to one-under in the first round of the Genesis Scottish Open here. Yet, by the time the day ended after a windy second session, Sharma found himself in top 30.

He was tied 29th. Treated to a ringside view of a stunning nine-under 61 from American Cameron Tringale, the Indian did mention that his own 69 may not be all that bad considering the conditions expected later in the day at the Renaissance Golf Club. In the afternoon, Anirban

Lahiri, searching for the form and rhythm that took him to a runner-up finish at the Players Championships, and get into next week's Open, started from the 10th and had three birdies in a row from 12th to 14th. He had a superb three-under after five holes. However, Lahiri bogeyed the

Par-5 16th and dropped a double on the difficult Par-4 18th and suffered even more with a double on the first. A birdie on fourth was a balm of sorts, but that gain was taken away at the tough ninth in blowing wind. He ended two-over and left hoping for a better second round.

OnePlus Nord 2T 5G: OnePlus flagship essentials, upgraded



Pune (Voice news service):- Global technology brand OnePlus launched the OnePlus Nord 2T 5G, the newest addition to the com-

pany's more affordable smartphone line - OnePlus Nord. The OnePlus Nord 2T takes the beloved flagship essentials of the OnePlus Nord 2 and upgrades them in big ways to bring an elevated experience to users. The OnePlus Nord 2T packs the same flagship 80W SUPERVOOC fast charging that debuted on the OnePlus 10 Pro, a faster, holistically upgraded MediaTek Dimensity 1300 chipset, an AI-enhanced flagship camera from the OnePlus 10R, along with OxygenOS 12.1 to deliver a

faster and smoother experience at a great price point. "In line with our commitment to making the OnePlus experience more accessible, the OnePlus Nord 2T combines excellent hardware and software to push the limits of a great everyday smartphone," said Pete Lau, Founder of OnePlus. "With top-tier flagship hardware and burdenless software - including 80W SUPERVOOC, the MediaTek Dimensity 1300, the Sony IMX766 image sensor with OIS, along with OxygenOS

12.1 - the OnePlus Nord 2T feels more premium than it should at a great price." from July 5th till July 11th, ICICI credit and debit card users will be eligible for an instant bank discount of INR 1500 on Amazon.in, OnePlus.in, OnePlus Store App, OnePlus experience stores and other major offline partner stores. ICICI credit and debit card users can also avail no cost EMI for up to 3 months till the end of July. The device will start from INR 28,999.

RoundTable on 'The Agony & Ecstasy, Nambi Narayanan's Rocketry'



Pune (Voice news service):- Khul Ke, India's homegrown social media platform launched by Loktantra Mediatech Pvt. Ltd. earlier this year, rolled out its first campaign "Naya Daur - What's Next, India?" to commemorate India's glorious run to its 75th Independence Day on 15th August this year. As a part of this campaign, the platform aims

to bring forth powerful voices from across the country to come together and share their thoughts on relevant issues and topics impacting the nation. During the RoundTable hosted on "The Agony & Ecstasy, Nambi Narayanan's Rocketry" - Nambi Narayanan, the real-life hero and the much talked about Indian Aerospace Scientist spoke candid-

ly about his views on the film. When asked if the film was overdramatized for cinematic effect, he emphatically says "I think it is under dramatized, it is not over dramatized. I mean if you are asking for the torture part of it, what is shown in the movie is less than what really happened. We didn't want to dramatize it at all, we didn't want to add any cinematic effects to that, it is the truth" Wrongly accused of being a spy, jailed, tortured, and publicly shamed, Nambi Narayanan realized the importance of his family during this tumultuous period. He goes on to say "I was never a good husband, never a good father. I dedicated myself to something else which I feel, and I regret today. I should have spent some time with my family. Family alone was standing by my side when I was alone." On asked what gave him the strength to go on he said "I believe in God. I knew that

this would come through in my favour." Sharing his thoughts on R.Madhavan's Rocketry, he said the film was "a very accurate depiction". While watching the film, he felt, "Madhavan has acted in the film as Nambi Narayanan, but I feel he has lived as Nambi Narayanan." He spoke about Madhavan imbibing his mannerisms and way of talking very accurately. He further added that "Madhavan played a critical and clear role. He is a godsent man" When asked about his message to future generations, Narayanan said, "If you believe in certain things and you think it is the right thing to do, you must continue to do that to the very end." When asked if he can pardon India for the years of mental agony and trauma inflicted upon him, he said "Who am I to pardon India? The country is good, and the people are good and I have faith in India."

Indian Immunologicals hosts massive Anti-rabies vaccine drive on World Zoonosis Day 2022

Pune (Voice news service):- Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), a leading vaccine manufacturer, today organized a nationwide free vaccination camp against zoonotic diseases on account of World Zoonosis Day 2022. Diseases that transmit from animals to human beings are called Zoonotic diseases. World Zoonosis Day is celebrated annually on July 6th to honour the first immunisation against a zoonotic illness. It holds substantial significance in educating and raising awareness about zoonotic diseases. IIL takes

pride in offering this compassionate service of large-scale inoculation to the society every year. Today, Indian Immunologicals, has administered 1 Lac doses of Raksharab and Starvac R (Anti-rabies vaccines of IIL) free of cost, in endeavour to realize its vision of 'One health', a collaborative effort towards optimal health for humans and animals through its innovative healthcare products. A recent report from the State of the World's Forests 2022 predicts India as a potential hotspot for zoonotic viral diseases.

70% of all emerging diseases such as Rabies, Swine Flu, Nipah, Brucellosis, Leptospirosis, Porcine Cysticercosis, Zika, etc. that affect humans are zoonotic in nature. In their fight against the spread of such zoonotic viruses, IIL's vaccination camp was escalated to 100 cities across the country including Pune, Jaipur, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Guwahati, etc, through veterinary dispensaries, veterinary colleges and NGOs. Speaking on the occasion of World Zoonosis Day, Dr. K. Anand Kumar, Managing

Director, Indian Immunologicals Limited said, "It is the commitment of IIL as a truly One Health company to bring cost effective vaccines in both animal and human health. Through our "Anti-Rabies vaccine drive", we aim to spread awareness on the disease and need to restrain it. Apart from Raksharab and Starvac R, IIL has the largest range of zoonotic vaccines in the country such as CYSVAX, Bruvax, among others and we are constantly innovating novel vaccines to cater to the ever-emerging zoonotic risks."

Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited (MNGL) Revises CNG Prices in Pune City, Pimpri-Chinchwad & Adjoining Areas of Talegaon, Chakan, Hinjewadi

Pune (Voice news service):- Pune - based City Gas Distribution (CGD) Company, Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited (MNGL), has hiked the retail price of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for vehicular segment in the Pune city including Pimpri-Chinchwad and adjoining areas of Chakan, Talegaon and Hinjewadi with effect from the midnight of 5th/6th July 2022.

MNGL has effected this CNG price revision on account of increase in input cost of domestic natural gas. Further, the Re-Gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (R-LNG) is mixed to meet the shortfall of domestic natural gas availability in CNG and Domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) sectors. This combination has led to a significant increase in the input cost of gas being procured by MNGL. However, MNGL has decided to pass on the increased gas cost to the customers in a phased manner. Even after the above revision,

MNGL's CNG still offers attractive savings of around 53% and 32% as compared to petrol and diesel; respectively at current price levels in Pune city for the passenger car segment and around 33% for Auto Rickshaws in Pune and adjoining areas. Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited (MNGL) is a joint venture of two Maharashtra PSUs; GAIL (India) Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) with equity participation from Government of Maharashtra through MIDC and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL). It is a premier city gas

distribution company in the Geographical Areas of Pune & Pimpri-Chinchwad city including adjoining areas of Hinjewadi, Chakan & Talegaon, Valsad (except area already authorized), Dhule, Nashik District and Sindhadurg District in Maharashtra and Ramanagara District in Karnataka. MNGL has been focusing on providing clean, environment friendly green fuel - PNG - that caters the domestic, commercial, industrial sectors and CNG, which caters to the automotive sector, contributing large share of the society.

ZF Supervisory Board appoints Dr. Holger Klein Chairman and CEO of ZF Friedrichshafen AG

Pune (Voice news service):- Dr. Holger Klein, Member of the Board of Management responsible for the Asia-Pacific region, Car Chassis Technology Division, Aftermarket and Production, succeeds Wolf-Henning Scheider as Chairman and CEO of ZF Friedrichshafen AG at the turn of the year 2022/2023.

At the same time, Dr. Peter Laier will join the Board of Management to lead the Commercial Vehicle Solutions (CVS) and Industrial Technology divisions succeeding Wilhelm Rehmer. ZF Chief Financial Officer Dr. Konstantin Sauer will leave the company by the end of 2022 after many years of service.

The Supervisory Board will fill the position in the near future. "As a board member, Dr. Holger Klein was intimately involved in the strategic planning process for the coming years. Therefore, he will dynamically continue the successful transformation at ZF and add his own impulses," says Supervi-

sory Board Chairman Dr. Heinrich Hiesinger. As of October 1, 2022, Dr. Klein will initially assume the role of Deputy Chairman of the ZF Board of Management before taking over as Chairman of the Board of Management and CEO as of January 1, 2023, from Wolf-Henning Scheider, who is leaving ZF.

81.4% of students feel safe going back to school, over 70% rely on digital learning: Brainly survey

Pune (Voice news service):- Following two years of remote, hybrid, and socially distant learning, students are returning to classrooms now. Despite the disruption, the pandemic ushered in a new learning mechanism for students in India that's set to cement itself further going forward. Brainly, India's leading online learning platform conducted a survey with middle and high school students to understand the generic sentiment of Indian students about returning to traditional classroom settings and what it holds for them. Despite the recent spike in cases, around 81.4% students said that they feel safe about returning to schools. While 67% expressed excitement on returning to class, around 56.4% were happy about the possibility of meeting their friends and teachers. But it's undeniable that on-

line learning is a reality for everyone now and the newer education models that surfaced during the pandemic shall continue to exist hereafter. Mr. Narasimha Jayakumar, Managing Director, India, Brainly, commented on the survey results and said, "It is a huge transition for students to return to classrooms after almost two years of shutdown. Education in India has undergone a paradigm shift during the pandemic and there is a definitive change in how Indian students are pursuing learning. While schools have resumed operations, the real challenge lies in attaining academic rigour and motivation. That is why Brainly decided to interact with students and understand their sentiments on the changing landscape. Our research shows that, sociability is the primary reason why most students

are choosing to go back to school. This also proves that technology, can't replace friendship and social interactions." Apart from the general sentiment about going back to schools, the Brainly survey revealed that 27.1% of students picked Mathematics as their most favorite subject while 39.3% attributed it to be the most challenging. English emerged as the second most loved subject garnering 26.7% votes followed by science that stood at 24.3%. Of the classroom activities Indian students enjoy the most, 36.5% said that they liked giving presentations, while 23.4% spoke in favor of debates. There was growing enthusiasm for extracurricular activities with 57.1% students expressing their liking for the same whereas 49% of students opted for sports as a favorite activity.

Reflecting on the growing adoption of technology in learning, 73.6% of students polled confirmed that they use online platforms for homework and 30.5% said that they use gadgets regularly. Online education has enabled access to vast reserves of information for students, which was not a possibility in the traditional setting. "The value of online learning is starting to become clear to both students and parents. Owing to the assurance and quality that edtech promises, there is a growing preference towards hybrid learning models that will take precedence and become a norm for modern day education. Brainly is focused in its efforts to make online learning a more immersive and personalized experience in India and expand its services to make quality learning available to all." added Mr Jayakumar.



NIC Honestly Natural Ice Cream Only Ice Cream Brand in India to Offer a Bouquet of Over 50+ Flavours

Pune (Voice news service):- NIC Honestly Natural Ice Creams the fastest-growing ice cream brand in the country after having established itself as one of the most popular brands in India has now achieved another milestone in its journey by becoming the only Natural Ice Cream brand in India to offer more than 55 flavours to its ever-growing customer base. These include seasonal flavours, as well as popular and international flavours that are available all year round. NIC also has a range of sugar-free flavours and plans to expand the same. "We will continue to offer our customers with a diverse and unique range of ice creams in a variety of ways because we use only natural ingredients, hence our ice creams are denser, richer, and thicker than regular ice cream. NIC Honestly Natural Ice Creams are specially curated to provide a decadent sensory ex-



perience. With an offering over 50 ice cream flavours and current expansion plans, we are confident that NIC Honestly Natural Ice Cream will continue to delight diverse taste buds across the country" said, Sanjiv Shah, Director of Walko Food Company Pvt Ltd. These flavours coincide with National Ice Cream Month where one can indulge in a wide variety of ice cream flavours like Choco Almond, Cookies Cream, Madagascar Chocolate, Sugarless Anjeer, Roasted Almond, Inspired by Indian sweets such as Gulab Jamun, Sheer Khu-

rma, Gajar Halwa, Modak, Thandai and other international flavours such as Belgian Chocolate, Sea Salt Caramel, Dryfruit Over Load, Strawberry Cheesecake, and Mixed Berries. "Our flavours not only include mesmerizing names, but are a reflection of tastes of millennials and Gen Z. We look at major trends and what consumers want in their treats when developing new flavours to guarantee that we're introducing creative tastes and growing the diversity of flavors and perks that our consumers will enjoy. In order to meet ever

growing demand we have expanded our popular lines to make products available that will bring joy to our customers throughout the year," added Sanjiv. In order to offer its customers a unique experience the company recently launched three new stores in Pune, Ahmedabad, and Siliguri as part of its expansion strategy. People are flocking to ice cream shops now that lives have returned to normalcy following the pandemic. Customers can enjoy NIC's ice cream while witnessing a one-of-a-kind and unforgettable experience at the NIC's Bandra experience center in Mumbai and 16 other outlets in various cities. NIC Honestly Natural Ice Cream is the most popular ice cream brand on various FoodTech platforms. The brand has a strong presence in metros, larger cities, and tier-2 cities and is gradually expanding into the tier-3 cities as well.

Surya Women and Child Super Specialty Hospital, Pune saves life of 18-day-old baby with rare congenital abnormality

Pune (Voice news service):- The systematic clinical approach of Surya Women and Child Super Specialty Hospital (SWCH), Pune has once again come to the limelight after its highly skilled paediatricians & neonatologists gave a new lease of life to an 18-day-old baby, who was suffering with congenital defect of food-pipe and windpipe besides being on mechanical respiratory support and IV medications. On second day of life, the baby had difficulty in breathing and abdomen distension (abnormally swollen tummy) for which she was admitted at another children's hospital in the vicinity. There she was treated for respiratory distress syndrome (RDS), persistent pulmonary hypertension of new-born (PPHN), shock and sepsis before she was retrieved to SWCH for advanced clinical management. After closely monitoring the baby's condition, it was observed that she had intermittent abdominal distension, copious and frothy clear ET secretions while on mechanical ventilation. All these symptoms led to suspicion of H type TEF. A CT scan of the neck and thorax was performed and the diagnosis was confirmed with video bronchoscopy,

which revealed a fistula 0.5 cm above the carina (the ridge of the breastbone). A pleural patch was placed to prevent re-fistulization after the baby was operated on via a highly complicated posterolateral thoracotomy approach. During surgery there was the risk of bleeding, infection, injury to blood vessels and vital organs. "H type TEF is an abnormal connection between the oesophagus and the trachea. Congenital TEF can arise due to failed fusion of the trachea esophageal ridges during the third week of embryological development. Congenital isolated TEF (H-type) is a rare disorder. This anomaly accounts for about 4% of tracheoesophageal malformations and has an incidence of around 1:50 000-80,000 births. Cyanosis, cough and choking with feeding, recurrent chest infections and persistent gastrointestinal distension are the prominent symptoms of this condition. These symptoms are usually confused with common neonatal problems such as RDS, PPHN, etc and the diagnosis can be missed as was the case here. A high index of suspicion is needed to diagnose this condition. Complications after H type

TEF repair include esophageal anastomotic leak, esophageal stricture, gastroesophageal reflux, recurrent fistula, and tracheal obstruction. But, in this case the baby was hemodynamically stable throughout surgery and post operative also the baby went home without any complication," said Dr Sachin Shah, Director - Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Services, Surya Women and Child Super Specialty Hospital (SWCH), Pune. Post the complicated surgery, her congenital defect was corrected and she is perfectly healthy with no further requirement of clinical management or precautions. She was discharged on 22 days of life without any complication during the surgery and postoperative care we well. The positive output in this case is wholly credited to the hospital's systematic clinical approach, which enabled the doctors to find out the cause of disease and rule out any anatomical defect. Other members from the Hospital's Pediatric team who were actively involved in ensuring timely clinical care of the baby included Neonatal Intensivists Dr Amita Kaul, Dr Jayant Khandare & Dr Ganesh Shiwarkar and Pediatric Surgeon Dr Adarsh Hegde.

Public storage marketplace Airattix raises INR 1.25 crs through external funding to accelerate growth



Pune (Voice news service):- Airattix, a Pune-based first-of-its-kind marketplace for storage and parking spaces, has raised

INR 1.25 crs in its Pre-Series A funding. The funding was led by a group of investors of Indian and American nationality. Through the funding, the company plans to expand its presence in tier 1 and tier 2 cities in India, team building, technology development and marketing. The company also plans to invest in its technology and mobile applications and scale up its marketing activities. The software in the mobile application and the website will now be enabled with tools like artificial intelligence and machine learning

to make it more user-friendly for the customers. It will further help the backend team to get the queries of customers, booking information, etc., to make the processes easier and offer a better customer experience. Currently, Airattix has over 5000 registered users since its launch in 2020. Speaking on the funding Aditya Kale, Founder & CEO of Airattix, said, "This funding shows trust our current and new investors have in our business. We are in a growing phase, and this funding will help us upgrade our technology and reach newer markets. We

plan to grow the business in the overseas market in the near future and our management is currently focusing on upgrading its technology to enhance the user experience." Airattix is an aggregator platform for all the independent public storage facilities operating across the country, where people can list personally owned properties for rental of goods storage. The brand provides solutions for a common global problem of goods storage and parking spots. Airattix also provides an opportunity for the host to earn some extra income from their vacant and unused stor-

age spaces and parking spots. It provides end-to-end storage solutions to its customers. The customers can request to book other allied services through the portal like goods insurance, movers and packers, car and battery maintenance services, etc through its portal, along with some allied services goods insurance, car battery servicing, etc. As a reliable storage unit, Airattix is fully operational in Pune and has already managed to grow its operations in all metro cities in India like Pune, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru.

Free prosthetic arms, legs, and calipers camp for the disabled by Suryadatta Group of Institutions

Pune (Voice news service):- On the occasion of the 61st birthday of Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordia, the Founder and President of Suryadatta Group of Institutions, free prosthetic arms, legs, and calipers to be distributed to the disabled. Suryadatta has organized a one-day camp to take measurements of the limbs. The artificial limbs will be handed over to the needy disabled at the hands of Dr. Vinod Shah of the Janseva Foundation. The camp was organized on behalf of the Suryadatta Group of Institutes, Suryadatta Institute of Health Sciences, College of Physiotherapy, Suryadatta Institute of Disability Rehabilitation and Research, Suryadatta Education Foundation, and in collaboration with Disability Rehabilitation Center, Bharat Vikas Parishad. More than 65 people registered for the camp and 32 eligible persons were measured. During the camp, Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordia, Snehal Navliakha, Associate Vice President of the Suryadatta, Amit Todkar, President of Seva Sarathi Foundation,



Jayant Jesthe of Bharat Vikas Parishad, Vasudev Kalra, Vijay Gore, Prashant Satpute, Aniruddha Patankar, Divyang Snehi Balaji Bhoire, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. The principal of the College of Physiotherapy, Dr. Simi Rethrekar, Dr. Kanchan Gode, Dr. Kalyani Shivarkar, and Dr. Neha Bhosale coordinated the camp. Director Prashant Pitalia, Batu Patil, Raosaheb Sancheti along with teachers and non-teaching staff contributed to the success of the camp. The needy had registered for the camp from different parts of Maharashtra. Arrangements were made to transport the needy from Pune Station, Swargate, Katraj, Yerawada, Pimpri Chinchwad, Warje, Pashan, and Sinhagad

Road in Pune city. The first-year students of the College of Physiotherapy organized a successful event with spontaneous participation. Also learned more by interacting with each need. In the camp, along with the needy, Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordia celebrated his birthday by cutting a cake. "Recently we have celebrated Doctor's Day. The one who is compared to the real God is the doctor. The doctor who comes out of 'Suryadatta' will be a symbol of humanity. It will be a symbol of humility, compassion, efficiency," said Prof. Dr. Chordia. He said that the camp was organized to make these students experience the patient-doctor relationship as well as to serve the needy.

CA Week to observed in the city on the occasion of 74th National CA Day & 60th Foundation Day of Pune ICAI

Pune (Voice news service):- The 74th Foundation Day (National CA Day) of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Diamond Jubilee (60th Anniversary) of the Pune branch of Western India Regional Council (WIRC) of the ICAI Pune Branch was celebrated with great enthusiasm. On the occasion of National CA Day, the ICAI Pune branch has organized CA week, which was inaugurated with a walkathon from Sarasbaug to ICAI Bhavan at Bibwewadi. CA Yashwant Kasar, Vice-Chairman of WIRC, CA Kashinath Pathare, Chairman, CA Rajesh Agrawal, Vice-Chairman, CA Pritesh Munot, Secretary, CA Pranav Apte, Treasurer of ICAI Pune Branch along with executive members, CA and students were present in large numbers. Various activities are being implemented in different

parts of the city for this week. Walkathon from Sarasbaug to ICAI Bhavan, Bibwewadi, poster making, and slogan writing competition and exhibition were presented. A seminar on 'A Day in Your Life' and a cultural and book distribution program was held in different parts of the city including blood donation camps. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Swargate Bus Depot, box cricket league, distribution of educational materials, cyclotron, tree planting, carom competition, chess competition, badminton competition, and other activities has done during the week. CA Kashinath Pathare said, "This year CA Institute is celebrating its 74th anniversary. It is also the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Pune Branch. Various activities were organized to mark the occasion. All CA members and students took participation in all activities with enthusiasm."

Pune registers 25% YoY rise in residential sales; 21,797 homes sold in H1 2022: Knight Frank India

Pune (Voice news service):- Knight Frank India in its latest report, India Real Estate: H1 2022 (January to June 2022) cited that homes sales in Pune increased by 25%YoY to be recorded at 21,797 housing units in H1 2022. This was the highest half-yearly sales witnessed since 2012. H1 2022 has already achieved almost 60% of the annual sales of 2021. This is a significant milestone despite the implementation of metro cess and hike in ready reckoner rates observed during the period. Pune's residential space was dominated by the South and East micro markets accounting for a market share of 34% and 27% respectively of the total sales during H1 2022. The average price in Pune's residential market increased by 6% to INR 4,242 per sq ft in H1 2022. In terms of office market performance, the half-yearly period from January to June 2022 witnessed a strong revival in transaction volumes. H1 2022 recorded a Year-on-Year (YoY) growth of 187% with 3.3 mnsq ft and was the highest in terms of area transacted since H1 2019. New office completions were recorded at 5.0 mnsq ft during the same period. The average transacted rent escalated by 8% YoY in H1 2022. The rental movement was primarily driven by demand concentrated micro-markets of Peripheral Business District-East and Secondary Business District - West. The Business district-wise transactions in the Peripheral Business District (PBD) East grew from 3% in H1 2021 to 43% in H1 2022. From the aspect of the residential price movement, improved household incomes along with greater willingness on the part of homebuyers to purchase a property have given developers facing increased input costs the comfort to raise property prices. This has led to an increase in Pune's average residential prices by 6% YoY during H1 2022. With the sales outpacing new launches, the unsold inventory has seen a dip of 8% with a quarters-to-sell (QTS) of 4.9 quarters. Paramvir Singh Paul, Branch Director - Pune, Knight Frank India said, "Pune's

residential market has seen a robust performance in H1 2022. Despite implementation of the metro cess effectively raising the stamp duty by 1 percentage point, and the hike in Ready Reckoner rates (RR rates) by 6.12% in Pune city under PMC, and 12.36% in Pimpri Chinchwad under PCMC effective 1st April 2022, consumer sentiment remains unaffected as the sales momentum shows strong growth. However, against the backdrop of heightened uncertainty around Omicron in Q1 2022 and the rising input costs in Q2 2022, developers are being cautious while introducing new supply in the market." From the aspect of the micro-market split, demand for housing was concentrated in the South and East micro-markets of Pune, with 34% of sales in H1 2022 recorded in the South, and 27% recorded in the East micro markets. To date, these micro-markets continue to enjoy high demand as a large section of Pune's homebuyers comprise the Information Technology (IT) workforce who are looking for housing near the employment hubs. Followed by the East, the West Pune micro-market holds a market share of 22% while Central and North micro markets collectively hold a share of 17% commanding the lowest demand. From the aspect of price category, the share of ticket sizes < INR 5 mn continued to favour the homebuyers' accounting for 50% of the overall sales in H1 2022, which declined marginally from the 51% share recorded in H1 2021. Since H1 2018, the mid-segment share of 5-10 million homes has increased sequentially, from 28% in H1 2018 to 41% in H1 2022. The Luxury homes costing above INR 10 million also showed considerable traction, with a 9 percent share take-up in H1 2022. From the sector-wise transaction split in H1 2022, the Other Services that constitute e-commerce, consultancy, media, and engineering amongst others currently constituted the majority of Pune's transaction volume with an increase in share contribution from 13% in H1 2021 to 55% in H1 2022. Whereas, the Co-working

deals also continued to hold a large market share in Pune accounting for 31% of overall office transactions. From the aspect of Micro-markets split in sales, Demand in H1 2022 was dominated by the Other Services having a share of 55% of the total transactions which include e-commerce, consultancy, media, and engineering amongst others. Co-working transactions continued to dominate the market in Pune, accounting for 31% of all transactions. Peripheral Business District (PBD) East has seen the largest share take-up of 45% of the total transactions in H1 2022, with Kharadi as the preferred location for occupiers in this micro-market. Secondary Business District (SBD) West followed by PBD East, saw a share take-up of 19% with Baner as the preferred location in this micro-market. The share of Central Business District (CBD) & Off CBD and SBD East has been 14% and 13% respectively. From the aspect of office rents, Pune's average office space rents escalated by 8% YoY in H1 2022. The rental moments were primarily driven by PBD East and SBD West micro-market, where the demand in H1 2022 was concentrated. Paramvir Singh Paul, Branch Director - Pune, Knight Frank India said, "The city's commercial market has witnessed strong revival recording high transactions during the first half of the year making it the third largest market for the first time since H2 2018. With 'back to office' becoming the new normal and office occupancies increasing, tenants are aligning their business plans accordingly for new space take up. Developers remain prepared by adding new supply, H1 2022 recorded highest half yearly supply added since 2012.

Sahyadri Hospitals launches OncoPro-Online

Pune (Voice news service):- The Knowledge forum at Sahyadri Hospitals has launched 'OncoPro-online - a detailed Course on Cancer Patient Care, for doctors.' The program was launched in presence Dr. Shona Nag, Director of Oncology at Sahyadri Hospitals, Vice President Dr. Ketan Apte, Medical Director Dr. Prasad Muglikar and Abhinav Joshi, Unit Head Sahyadri Hospital Hadapsar. Dr. Shona Nag said that, with advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities, newer methods of treatment, availability specialists especially in urban areas, many cancers are completely treatable

if diagnosed in early stages. Physicians are the first point of contact for any patient. If any patient depicts any possible symptoms of cancer, the physician can guide the patient right away for early diagnosis. On the other hand, this forum will help physicians translate and explain information given by oncologist. The program includes Cancer Care practice in general, basics of chemotherapy, radiation, Epidemiology of Cancer, Psychological impact of Cancer and other topics. Dr. Ketan Apte said that as a leading chain of hospitals, we continue to make efforts to come out with unique initiatives that will ultimately

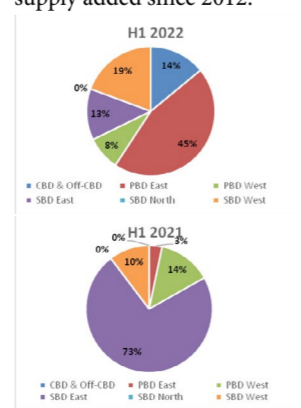
benefit the patients. The OncoPro-Online master class will be a great value addition especially for physicians and depending on the response we will expand this to other medical specialties like Liver, IVF etc. The faculties in OncoPro Online master class include Surgical Oncologists Dr. Joy Ghose and Dr. Ajinkya Bakare, Radiation Oncologists Dr. Sanjay MH and Ms Rebecca D'Souza, Medical Oncologists and Haematologists Dr. Shrinivasa Kulkarni and Dr Rahul Kulkarni. This is a 10 hour course, for more information log onto <https://sahyadrihospital.com/knowledge-forum>

GSMA REPORT SHOWS 5G COVERAGE IS SET TO ACCELERATE CROSS ASIA PACIFIC - BUT THE USAGE GAP REMAINS SIGNIFICANT

Pune (Voice news service):- The GSMA has published its latest Mobile Economy Asia Pacific 2022 report, which delivers a detailed picture of the region's adoption of mobile internet. At present, mobile broadband networks cover around 96% of the population, a testament to operators' investment in 3G, 4G and, increasingly, 5G infrastructure. However, just 44% of the population (1.23 billion users) are using mobile internet services. "Addressing the usage gap and extending the benefits of the internet to more people in society is critical," said GSMA's Head of Asia Pacific, Julian Gorman. "However, it will require a concerted effort by a broad range of stakeholders, working together with mobile operators and other ecosystem players such as device manufacturers and digital content creators, to drive adoption and overcome the barriers we see today." **Mobile delivers economic and social benefits** Mobile tech-

nologies and services continue to make a significant contribution to Asia Pacific's economy, generating 5% of GDP in the region in 2021, which equates to around \$770 billion of economic value. This ecosystem supported approximately 8.8 million jobs in 2021 and made a substantial contribution to the funding of the public sector, with around \$80 billion raised through taxation. **400 million 5G connections by 2025** 5G adoption is set to accelerate across the Asia Pacific region as the technology's footprint expands. Today, it is commercially available in 14 markets, with others, including India and Vietnam, going live in the coming months. According to the report, by 2025, there will be more than 400 million 5G connections, equivalent to just over 14% of total mobile connections. Progress is more advanced in countries like Australia, Japan and South Korea and in Singapore 5G is expected to account for 55% of the country's connections by 2025.

Metaverse momentum in Asia Pacific The report also explores the advent of the metaverse and highlights various 5G use cases and other related activities in the region. Notably, government bodies in the region have started outlining plans to harness the potential of the platform to increase the efficiency and quality of public services. South Korea has plans to spend \$186.7 million to create its metaverse ecosystem, and Thailand's Tourism Authority leveraged the technology to boost tourism in the country. **Policies for digital innovation** Policymakers and regulators can fuel growth and innovation by establishing a flexible forward-looking regulatory regime to support mobile network deployment and operations. **Mobile 360 Asia Pacific in Singapore** APAC's adoption of 5G will be centre stage at the GSMA's Mobile 360 Asia Pacific conference on 2-3 August 2022 at the JW Marriott South Beach Hotel in Singapore.



Imperative Business Ventures to expand operations in US, Canada and Middle East



Pune (Voice news service):- Imperative Business Ventures (IBVPL), inaugurated its state-of-the-art IT, 1000 plus seater facility in Thane recently. The company is offering Software Development, Digital BPM, Digital Transformation, SaaS, PaaS, IaaS & Cloud Services for start-ups and fintech firms. **Imperative Business Ventures also has two offices in Viman Nagar, Pune.** The inauguration of the facility at Thane was done in presence of CA Milind Kale, Chairman of CA Cosmos Co-operative Bank while Mr Vinayak Vispute, BMC Assistant Commissioner was guest of honour and inaugurated its ODC (Offshore Development Centre) facility, Veteran banker Mr Anand Chitnis inaugurated its IT and software labour innovation Lab. Mr Avadhut Thali of the BPO industry, inaugurated its Incubation Centre for Start-Ups and Fintechs with Mr Narendra Pawar, ex-MLA from Kalyan also gracing the occasion. Mrs Manjusha Patil, Founder-Chairperson of IBVPL, says the company is showing excellent performance and will be expanding operations overseas beginning with the US, Canada and the Middle East. IBVPL is a fintech conglomerate started back in 2011 by women entrepreneurs with Mrs Manjusha Patil, founder and chairman at the helm. As head of this fintech conglomerate of women entrepreneurs, Mrs Patil notes her creative team of entrepreneurs, engineers, researchers and industry leaders who have come together to explore opportunities, eliminate business process challenges and introduce innovative business

solutions in the domain of AI, ML, RPA, and Big Data Analytics. She noted the focus on innovative business transformation solutions for BFSI and global clients. The company's Impera Core and Diversified CX Platforms are engineered to replace slow and outdated manual processes with streamlined, automated workflows thus leading to increased accuracy and productivity for businesses in the areas of Document Workflow Management, Credit Assessment, Customer On-Boarding, Video KYC, Data Extraction by OCR and Classification using AI and Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable automation platform. Its innovative business transformation solutions and digital BPM services for customer onboarding, data aggregation and data analytics using AI, machine learning, RPA and big data analytics is being used by leading BFSI, telecom, healthcare, e-commerce, media and entertainment. The company will soon be launching a Digital Payments Platform for women entrepreneurs with the aim of enabling them to seamlessly conduct online e-commerce transactions, to open new business avenues in the payments space, thus rendering them financially independent. This will consequently spread financial awareness at the grassroots level. Mrs Patil points out that Imperative's immense experience of over a decade coupled with its expertise, has contributed to making it a strategic partner for its valued patrons. It will continue to provide intelligent solutions that would enable businesses to evolve further through improving productivity and enhancing customer satisfaction.

Chola partners with Kinetic Green to offer retail finance for EVs



Pune (Voice news service):- Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions Limited, India's leading manufacturer of electric vehicles today, announced its partnership with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited (Chola), the well-known financial services arm of Murugappa Group, to offer easy and smart financing for their range of battery-operated three-wheelers and electric two-wheelers. By virtue of an MoU signed by both the companies, Kinetic Green has nominated Chola as an

'Accredited Financier' for financing its customers. The collaboration aims to make Kinetic Green's battery-operated vehicles more affordable for the discerning and price conscious buyers with attractive financing solutions. This will also enable Kinetic Green to cater to newer markets with Chola's widespread presence across the country. Commenting on the partnership, Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Founder and CEO, Kinetic Green said, "I strongly believe that this partnership will enable Kinetic Green and its dealers to offer easy and affordable financing solution to our EV customers which perfectly fit their needs and repayment abilities. With attractive finance options provided by Chola-Kinetic partnership, Kinetic Green's customers can be assured of competitive financing solutions for their finance needs. This will fur-

ther propel the growth of Kinetic Green's electric 2W and 3W and help us achieve our vision of bringing green mobility to the masses in India." "We are happy to be partnering with Kinetic Green, a brand which comes with the legacy and culture of innovation and excellence, and a proven track record. This relationship will help us in taking a step closer to fulfilling our ESG goals. Building quality relationships has always been a cornerstone of Chola's philosophy. We are committed to building lasting, loyal relationships with our customers and partners by consistently delivering excellent value for both. The best aspect about this alliance with Kinetic Green is the fact that the biggest beneficiaries will eventually be the esteemed customers. With our strong network of 1145 plus branches across India, we aim to offer the customers a never-before experience through



customised finance packages that would come with speedy, convenient and transparent processes. This partnership is also in line with our continuous endeavour in enabling our customers to 'Enter a Better Life', adds Mr. Ravindra Kundu, Executive Director, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. With unmatched customer care, state-of-the-art manufacturing infrastructure, robust R&D and intelligent manpower, Kinetic Green continues its pioneering work to promote the green movement to electrify India's mobility sector.

RENAULT KIGER ACHIEVES 50,000 PRODUCTION MILESTONE IN INDIA

Pune (Voice news service):- Renault, the Number one European brand in India, has rolled out the 50,000th Renault KIGER from its plant in Chennai. Staying true to its commitment to keep building on the success of the Renault KIGER and to celebrate this milestone, Renault India has introduced a new Stealth Black exterior colour in the Renault KIGER range. According to Venkatram Mamilapalle, Country CEO & Managing Director, Renault India Operations, "Offering a strong value proposition in terms of distinctive design, smart features, leading safety, quality and performance, Renault KIGER has found widespread acceptance among its customers. It has proved its mettle in the most competitive compact SUV segment in India and the 50,000th production milestone, despite the pandemic and ongoing semicon-



ductor crisis, is yet another testament to the success of Renault KIGER in this challenging segment. This Sporty, Smart & Stunning SUV is an important contributor to our progress in India and has been instrumental in placing India among Renault's top five global markets. We are confident that Renault KIGER will continue to garner tremendous customer response and further bolster the brand's growth in India and overseas." Renault recently enhanced

the value proposition of the Renault KIGER with the introduction of MY22 edition. Available in two engine options 1.0L Energy Engine in MT & EASY-R AMT transmissions and 1.0L Turbo in MT & X-TRONIC CVT transmissions, the Renault KIGER offers enhanced driving experience and comfort with Wireless Smartphone Charge and Cruise Control functions. The Renault KIGER MY22 Turbo range features New Tailgate Chrome Insert, Front Skid Plate, TURBO Door De-

als along with 40.64 cm Diamond Cut Alloy Wheels with Red Wheel Caps, making the exteriors more stunning and sporty. Additionally, the Renault KIGER range will be now available in a new colour option - Stealth Black in the RXT(0) and RXZ variants in both engine options. Renault KIGER boasts of best-in-class colour range offering seven attractive colours with an option of four Dual-tone combinations. Renault KIGER is one of the most affordable offerings in the compact SUV segment with cost-effective maintenance. Renault KIGER has been recognized with multiple awards in the compact SUV category, highlighting its success in the Indian market. Powered by a world-class turbocharged 1.0L petrol engine, it not only offers more performance but also boasts best-in-segment fuel efficiency of 20.5 KM/L.

Aegon Life reimagines insurance buying experience with gamification

Pune (Voice news service):- Aegon Life, digital India's life insurance company, redesigns its website in line with its commitment to making insurance easy and accessible for all. Breaking from industry norms, the brand offers insurance quotations without asking prospective customers to share their contact details. A simplified DIY (Do It Yourself) interface provides a hassle-free buying experience, and the responsive design architecture allows for a seamless experience across devices - Tablets, PC, or Mo-

bile. The all-new website takes a unique approach to consumer education with the help of gamification. Visitors can play an engaging and intuitive game called the "Game of Life." The game has obstacles in the form of illnesses, accidents and other threats to help people understand that you might have multiple lives while playing a game, but in reality, there is only one life, and it is essential to protect it. Other consumer-centric solutions include the "Find Your Product" and "Insurance Need Calculator" to

help prospects identify the most suitable product and the right amount of coverage they need to be appropriately insured. Satishwar Balakrishnan, MD & CEO, Aegon Life Insurance, said, "We are thrilled to debut our all-new website to our customers, partners, and visitors. Aegon Life's vision is to secure every Indian household financially. The new website makes it easy for people to understand, buy, and claim insurance. It demonstrates our commitment to make insurance easy and accessible for all."

"The new website addresses a major concern for prospective customers - getting unwanted calls when they share their personal details. We respect customers' interests and provide quotations and on-demand assistance without requiring them to share their contact details. Through gamification, we are offering a unique way for our customers to interact with us so that they understand the importance of life insurance," added Satishwar. Link to the redesigned website - <https://www.aegonlife.com/>

87% of Indian Travellers Expect Airport Lounge Access As A Premium Card Benefit

Pune (Voice news service):- International demand for air travel has picked up substantially as restrictions across countries ease. Travellers who averaged 6 return trips pre-pandemic (2019), are beginning to return to the skies, with an average of 3 self-predicted return trips planned for 2022, found a new study commissioned by Collinson, a global leader in traveller experiences. The research, which seeks to understand the latest trends and travel habits driving Asia Pacific customers, surveyed almost 5,400 frequent travellers across seven major markets - Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Singapore and South Korea. India saw the largest number of respondents to the research out of all the markets included, with 1,063 participants (20%).

International travel returning at speed With summer in the northern hemisphere ushering in what has generally been believed to be the "peak travel season", one can expect to see a rise in travel around the region as people start planning their much-awaited vacations. Although the majority of these trips are expected to be domestic leisure trips, 55% of respondents have expressed an interest in travelling outside

of their home market for at least one trip. Looking at India specifically, the market appears to be ahead of the curve, with Indian airports witnessing a steep ramp-up in international passenger traffic. Travel reached 72% of pre-COVID levels in May this year, and is expected to reach 80-85% of pre-COVID levels by April 2023. Major destinations driving this demand are South East Asia, the Middle East and Europe. This is significant, as it reflects how travellers are not holding back on the scale of their journey and remain eager to make up for the time and experiences lost over the last two years due to the pandemic.

Travel anxieties continue to linger Despite undertaking travel in 2022, COVID-19-related health concerns remain; with close to half (42%) of respondents indicating having anxiety about picking up infections while at the airport. The remainder fear that crowds at the airport may lead to another outbreak, whilst others want to avoid the logistical hassles that come with travelling in the new normal - including mask-wearing, travel restrictions, mandatory quarantines, and more. However, only a little over 10%

of people still feel unsafe about travel, which is a promising trend when it comes to travel recovery. **Airport lounges aiding the journey** Airport lounges are seen as key in curbing travel anxiety - with the Collinson research revealing that 49% of Indian travellers 'feel safer at the airport' when they're able to access a lounge. On average, travellers regard lounge access as the number one most desirable travel benefit at the airport, leading to 87% of Indian travellers expecting airport lounge access as a premium card benefit. 55% of Indian respondents said they felt 'rewarded', while a further 52% of Indian respondents said lounge access made them 'feel valued as a customer'.

Todd Handcock, Asia Pacific President for Collinson said, "After two long years of waiting for the pandemic to recede and borders to open up, people across India are eagerly embracing the return of travel. This is an encouraging trend given that apprehensions around travel safety continue to exist. Recognising the value travellers place on lounge, we're extremely pleased to support Indian travellers' return to the skies through the launch of Priority Pass™ Access India."

Rewards in today's new era of travel With COVID-19 continuing to result in additional checks and balances at airports, it is inevitable that travellers will demand fresh airport lounge experiences. The increased emphasis on safety and celebration of the return to travel is expected to make travellers attach an increased value to travel-related benefits. This calls for brands to identify innovative ways to retain loyalty among current customers, whilst attracting new ones by leveraging lounge access and flight-delay benefits; such as Collinson's SmartDelay, which offers lounge services when customers' flights are delayed or cancelled.

Designed to provide our clients' customers with a touch of luxury in a safe and comfortable environment, Priority Pass™ Access India enables access to over 50 premium lounges and airport experiences located across all major cities in India, simply by tapping or swiping a credit or debit card on entry. This is seamlessly supplemented with access to Priority Pass's unrivalled 1,300 airport lounges and experiences globally - providing at least one experience covering 95% of all international flights from the top 100 airports."

Vitesco Technologies increases sustainability in manufacturing with new laser welding technology

Pune (Voice news service):- Vitesco Technologies, a leading international manufacturer of modern drive technologies and electrification solutions, is using innovative laser systems from its long-standing production engineering partner TRUMPF. With the introduction of the new green laser equipment for copper welded joints, Vitesco Technologies is among the pioneers in the serial use of this new solution. Compared with infrared laser systems - the standard in copper welding to date - the use of green lasers can reduce energy consumption by up to 20 percent, depending on the application, and thus the CO2 footprint per laser

welded joint. At the same time, production becomes more sustainable by the fact that green laser systems cause virtually no copper spatter during welding, which otherwise means more effort during production. Laser specialist TRUMPF has for the first time developed a green laser system of this type for industrial production, which operates in the visible light spectrum with a wavelength of 515 nm. Compared to the infrared laser welding technology with a wavelength of around 1030 nm used to date, the welding process with the green laser is more energy-efficient and controlled. For the first time, the green

laser is being used at Vitesco Technologies for the current production of sophisticated battery management electronics for the BMW Group. Already here, the energy consumption for the welding assembly could be reduced by 4 percent only by substituting the beam source. "Our sustainable manufacturing with smaller CO2 footprint and very stable processes is a competitive advantage. Because for vehicle manufacturers, sustainability with the highest quality is strategically relevant. That is why the use of green laser systems is important for us," said Thomas Stierle, member of the Executive Board at Vitesco Technologies.

"The green laser has great potential for many electrification products. In addition to electronics, this also applies to electric motors. Among other things, we can use the welding process on a highly efficient stator with 138 welding points per motor," adds Pühl. One of the technological advantages of green lasers is that even particularly difficult welds can be mastered successfully with a high level of process reliability. "The green laser is a key investment in the future of sustainable mobility - beginning with manufacturing," says Pühl. Sustainable and innovative manufacturing technology: green lasers.

Bank of Baroda signs MoU with the Indian Air Force to provide specially curated Salary Savings Accounts



Pune (Voice news service):- Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for Salary Savings Accounts. Under the MoU, Bank of Baroda will offer Baroda

Military Salary Package for Uniformed Personnel and Veterans of the Indian Air Force. The MoU covers special benefits including enhanced free comprehensive Personal Accident Insurance cover (PAI), attractive offers on Retail Loans and a host of other benefits. The exchange of MoUs was

held at the Indian Air Force auditorium at New Delhi in a ceremonial manner. The event was attended by the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Air Vice Marshal Ashok Saini, VSM, ACAS (Accounts & Air Veterans) and Shri Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda. Shri Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "Bank of Baroda is privileged and honoured to be able to offer our services to the Indian Air

Force - one of India's most respected institutions and the guardians of our skies. The Bank has a long-standing history of serving the Indian Armed Forces with best-in-class products and services and our specially curated salary accounts will enhance the banking experience for the Indian Air Force personnel and their family members. Backed by state-of-the-art digital solutions, an extensive branch network and the highest standards of customer service, we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with the IAF."

PNB Introduces Pre-Approved Personal Loan in 4 Clicks and single OTP via digital channels

Pune (Voice news service):- Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation's leading public sector bank introduces 'Pre-Approved Personal Loan in 4 Clicks and Single OTP' on the mobile Banking App PNB One, that unifies multiple services of PNB on a single platform. Customers can now get personal loans with just four clicks and a single one-time password (OTP). The end-to-end digital journey takes less than a minute with instant disbursal in the account. The 24*7*365 end-to-end



digital service will offer customers a seamless and convenient experience i.e. customers no longer need to visit the branch as they can

do it from the comfort of their home, office or anywhere anytime. At the event, Shri Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of PNB,

said: "Having understood the opportunity due to the growing demand of digital loans due to busy schedules amongst the current generation, we are delighted to offer the Pre-Approved Personal Loans to our customers through our digital channels. In addition to providing access to instant credit, there is no hassle of documentation for loans up to Rs. 4 lakh. PNB hopes that this product will serve as an example of responsible digital lending for the banking industry and prove to be one of the best products in the retail sector."

PNB SIGNS MOU WITH INDIAN AIR FORCE FOR 'PNB RAKSHAK PLUS SCHEME'

Pune (Voice news service):- Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation's leading Public Sector Bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to provide specially designed products to the defence personnel under the bank's flagship scheme of 'PNB Rakshak Plus'. This scheme includes, inter alia, personal accidental insurance, air accidental insurance to serving, retired and trainees of the defence forces, central armed police forces, state police force, metro police and retired defence pensioners. The agreement was exchanged between Shri Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of PNB, and Chief of Air Staff,

Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC on behalf of the Indian Air Force in a ceremony at the Indian Air Force Auditorium in Delhi. Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC expressed gratitude for associating with PNB for signing of MoU. Commenting on the collaboration, Shri Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of PNB, said: "This is a historic moment which gives PNB Parivar the opportunity to serve the nation in a befitting manner. At present, PNB provides support for the armed forces through 120 cantonment branches spread across the nation. Nine of these have

been transformed into special branches honouring the martyrs-for instance, our Martyr Branch at Jalandhar, is named after Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, PVC (Posthumous) and takes utmost care of Armed Force Personnel. The financial needs of our valiant soldiers and their families residing in inaccessible and remote areas are further met by the expansive network of PNB. Additionally, we intend to operationalize more mobile ATMs, digital and doorstep banking for our warriors. This collaboration will only add to PNB's unwavering commitment towards the Indian Air Force Personnel and Veterans." The salient features of "PNB Rakshak Plus" include:

Personal Accidental (Death) cover of Rs. 50 lakh. Air Accidental (Death) Insurance cover of Rs. 100 lakh. Personal Accidental (Permanent total Disability) cover of Rs. 50 lakh. Sweep Facility - Initial threshold amount - Rs. 10000/- Minimum Sweep In/Out - Rs. 1000/- Multiples of - Rs. 1000/- No 'Cash Handling Charges' levied for transaction(s) implying thereby that all branches of PNB, PAN-India, would be considered as 'Home' branch. Overdraft upto last 3 months Net Salary/ Pension amounting from Rs. 75000 to Rs. 3lakh. Concession in rate of interest and service charges under Housing, Car, Education and Personal Loan Schemes. Etc.

Practically Poised for Rapid Growth and Aggressive Expansion in India and International Markets; beats prevailing market trends in EdTech Industry

Pune (Voice news service):- National, July 6th, 2022: Against the current market sentiment around ed-tech, with a strong eLearning innovative product, Practically, India's first experiential learning app designed to make learning immersive for students of classes 6-12, has achieved a promising ARR (Average Revenue Run Rate) growth of over 3X from January to May 2022. The company is aiming to

ensure stronger growth momentum by expanding its operations to more geographies in the domestic as well as international markets such as SEA and MENA. Practically is set to launch its K-5 product later this year and also extend its offering to Social Sciences and English apart from STEM, gearing up to become an end-to-end learning solutions provider in the K-12 category across the globe. While commenting on the

future growth drivers, Ms. Charu Noheria, Co-Founder and COO, Practically said, "In a short span, Practically has witnessed strong growth numbers as we are moving towards achieving gross revenues of \$10 million in FY23. We are expecting 40% revenue from Indian markets and the rest internationally. We have launched many industry-first revolutionary features that showcase the power of AI and AR in learn-

ing. We are confident that we will continue to hold the momentum in the upcoming six months leading to our Series B funding," added Ms. Noheria. To fuel the growth momentum, the company has recently opened offices in Mumbai and Mohali and is looking to increase its headcount by 66% in the next year. Currently Practically operates with a team of 300 employees.