



Road Safety Cup cricket match organised in Pune on 11th December



Pune (Voice news service):- Public awareness campaigns are always conducted in urban and rural areas to increase awareness about traffic rules and road safety. Through various programs motorists are motivated to follow traffic rules but many motorists do not follow the rules and many motorists are still not aware of many traffic rules. It is often seen that most of the accidents on the roads are due to the negligence of the drivers themselves, which puts their lives and that of others in danger. In a recent incident, after the sudden death of the late Cyrus Mistry, an Indian businessman and chairman of the Tata Group, recognizing the need to take concrete steps on road accidents and safety, the Board for Veteran Cricket in India, a government recognized Body (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, New Delhi) has organized 'Road Safety Cricket Cup' which is India's most popular sport to spread awareness and social message about road safety and precautions on 11th December at Shivaji Nagar Police Ground.

It is conceptualised and conducted by the Chairman of the Board Meehir Kulkarni, under the cooperation and guidance of President of the Board Nitin Gadkari, Road Transport and Highways Minister. Meehir Kulkarni gave this information in the press conference. Government officials from different sectors are coming together to support this initiative. Amitabh Gupta, Commissioner of Police Pune, Vikram Kumar, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Pune, Rahul Chavan, Assistant Charity Commissioner Pune and their colleagues enthusiastically participated in the Road Safety Cricket Cup. Kulkarni said that the cricket match between two teams Ragging Lions (Pune Police) and SkyHawks (Pune Municipal Corporation) will be played between 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on December 11 and will be open to the public. After the match, the cup will be given to the winning team and trophy to each participating player in the prize distribution ceremony by the dignitaries.

Marquardt Group expands in India, launches global Research & Development Center in Pune



Pune (Voice news service):- Marquardt India, a leading manufacturer of electromechanical and electronic switches and switching systems for automobiles and other sectors opened its global R&D center in Pune today. The center with skilled engineers is well-equipped to cater to the demands of global and local automotive customers. Dr. Harald Marquardt, Chief Executive Officer of the Marquardt Group, and Mr. Vishal Narvekar, Managing Director of Marquardt India Pvt. Ltd. inaugurated the new R&D center. India is a very significant market for Marquardt: On the Inauguration of the R&D center, Dr. Harald Marquardt, Chief Executive Officer of the Management Board of the Marquardt Group said, "We are celebrating a very special premiere in the 97-year history of the Marquardt company: never before have we set two such major milestones in one country in just one week, as we inaugurate our new R&D center today and tomorrow we will do the groundbreaking ceremony of Marquardt India's production plant at Talegaon. India is a very significant mar-

ket for the Marquardt group and we have been working hard to develop our presence here. With this cutting-edge facility, we will increase our competitiveness and R&D capabilities not only in the Indian market, but also globally. With our clients at the center of all we do, we will continue developing industry-leading products and services to meet their highest demands. Our investment in India is a clear and everlasting commitment to the country". Creation of several hundred new jobs: He further added, "Tomorrow we will start the next construction project in India: At Talegaon, we are investing in a state-of-the-art plant that will be completed as early as mid-2024. On a total area of more than 5 acres, we will accommodate production and electronics manufacturing as well as logistics, training rooms and a nice staff restaurant. We will create several hundred more jobs. Above all, we will be even closer to our customers, offer them greater added value and continue to grow". The company has invested more than 100 crore rupees in the new R&D facility. The R&D center is spread

across approximately 300,000 square feet and is located in Hinjewadi Phase 3, Pune. More than 450 highly-skilled engineers in the automotive domain are committed to serving global and local automotive customers for the Marquardt Group. The team develops solutions for electrically driven vehicles, as well as entry and authorization systems and human machine interfaces for cars, trucks and off-road vehicles. Mr. Vishal Narvekar, Managing Director at Marquardt India Pvt. Ltd. said, "We are excited to inaugurate our new R&D Center in Pune. The new dedicated building will enable us to harness modern technology to produce products of the future. For us, the new R&D center in Pune is much more than just a new facility. It is a true milestone in the Marquardt Group's decades of successful development in India. With our investments in the new R&D center and state-of-the-art plant, we will be able to create more employment opportunities in India. We currently employ over 450 people and have space for more than double the number at our new R&D center in

Farhan Akhtar & Naazy get the Puneri audience grooving to Yaari at McDowell's No1 Soda - No1 Yaari Jam



Pune (Voice news service):- Bringing alive the festivities with a bang in Pune, McDowell's No1 Soda brought the renowned actor, director and singer Farhan Akhtar and the new age rapper Naazy for the No1 Yaari Jam held in Pune last night. Getting the Puneri audience to groove and dance to the tunes of Yaari, the duo rocked the night at the Mahalaxmi Lawns. McDowell's No.1 Soda has been synonymous with the heart-warming stories of Yaari. It has been an enabler of friendships and solidarity through its intriguing and captivating storytelling amongst the country's youth. Keeping in tune with its philosophy of strengthening bonds of yaars, the No.1 Yaari Jam with Farhan and Naazy brought this celebration of true friendship. Featuring classic hits from Farhan fused with some new tracks by Naazy, the live concert was a treat for all music lovers in the city of Pune. The artists mesmerized the citizens with their much-loved charm and magic. Farhan's avid listeners reminisced with their yaars on some of his most popular tracks, such as Socha Hai, Aturangi Yaari, Manzar naya, Dekh Toofan Aaya Hain, along with some of Naazy's new age

songs Mere Gali, Fatke, Aafat Waapas which are now making waves even in the international circuits. Speaking on occasion, Farhan Akhtar said, "It was an absolute treat to be back in Pune after a long hiatus! The energy of the audience brought alive the concert and got us energized! Friendship has always been crucial in my decision, scripts, and music. I have always loved making movies and music about unique Yaars, and I am glad. No1 Yaari Jam has allowed me to spread the joy I feel with Yaars through my music." Speaking about No1 Yaari, Naazy said, "It was a surreal experience performing on stage at the No1 Yaari Jam. Sharing the stage with Farhan Akhtar was a bonus. Yaari is about love, laughter, and life with your friends. My friends have made me feel safe and supported, which has inspired my music and my journey in this industry. I am honored to be a part of the No1 Yaari Jam, and I can't wait to perform for the yaars in the other cities." The No1 Yaari Jam with Farhan Akhtar & Naazy will move to Aurangabad on the 8th of January 2023 and promises to be bigger and better!

The Expressionist: The first-ever BMW XM

Pune (Voice news service):- The first-ever BMW XM has been launched in India today. The completely built-up unit (CBU) is available for bookings at BMW dealership network. Deliveries will commence from May 2023 onwards. As BMW M GmbH's 50th anniversary celebrations continue,

it brings high performance like never experienced before. The first-ever XM is the first stand-alone M model since the BMW M1. Like the legendary mid-engined sports car M1, the XM has been developed fully independently, with no conceptual baseline to be found in the BMW model range.

Aeromodelling Show Organized for Nearly 3,000 Students living in Slum Area



Pune (Voice news service):- An Aeromodelling Show was organized for more than 3,000 students living in slum areas by renowned NGO Youth Organization for Joining, Action & Knowledge (YOJAK) and Bajaj Auto to promote aeromodelling and create awareness about the dynamics and technological advancements in the field. The show was organized at H. A. Ground in Pimpri and Shekhar Singh, Commissioner, PCMC was present as the Chief Guest. Sadanand Kale and Atharva Kale from Satara displayed a spe-

cial aeromodelling show on the ground with demonstration of 15 airplanes and 7 fighter planes to the students. Aircraft such as Flying Garuda, Gliders, Indian Air Force's MiG 21, MiG 29, Sukhoi, Tejas, Jaguar aircraft and trainer planes were demonstrated here. Bhupali Mhaskar, Senior Manager, CSR, Bajaj, Annasaheb Bodhade, Additional Commissioner, PCMC, Sandeep Khot, Deputy Commissioner, PCMC and Bina Joshi, Head, CSR, Forbes Marshall were the other Guests of Honour at the program.

Also present were Atul Inamdar, Founder YOJAK, Renu Inamdar, Director, YOJAK, Neelkanth Poman, Head, IT & CSR, PCMC, Datta Pawar, Majid Khan, Reshma Andhale and Vijay Wavre. The students were awestruck by the exciting live demonstration of flying of radio-controlled aircraft models by the expert team. The students also witnessed the technological advancements and learnt important lessons of preciseness, patience and courage. The show provided new wings of scientific thoughts to the students who otherwise do not have exposure to experience and



experiment with high-cost technology and advancements. Smita Rokade compered the program. Additional Information: YOJAK is an NGO working to empower vulnerable communities such as tribals and slum dwellers in PCMC and rural areas of Pune district by means of innovative programs in the field of education, health, technology and natural resource management. The NGO in association with

BAJAJ auto Ltd. and with active participation of PCMC runs 12 Learning Centres in PCMC slums areas. This is with a vision to provide access to underprivileged students to learn science, & technology advancements and motivate them to innovate and further contribute to the future of the nation. Two of the centres are equipped with technology labs.

CitiusTech Expands Footprint, Opens New Facility in Pune

Pune (Voice news service):- CitiusTech, a leader in healthcare technology and consulting services, today announced the opening of its second state-of-the-art technology facility in Pune. The new facility will accommodate 800+ healthcare technology professionals, taking CitiusTech's Pune footprint to 1,500+. CitiusTech Chief Operating Officer Atul Soneja inaugurated the company's new office at Khadrali Knowledge Park SEZ. Atul Soneja, COO, CitiusTech said, "The healthcare sector is rapidly evolving in its journey of transformation through digital, and at CitiusTech, we partner with our clients across payer, provider, health-tech, and life sciences to solve domain-intensive challenges, and help them achieve their growth ambitions. With a people-first approach we are happy to expand our footprint and pleased to inaugurate our second office in

Pune, providing talent with the opportunity to make a difference in a fast-growing industry, with focus on areas like digital transformation, product engineering, cloud services and artificial intelligence." Founded in 2005, CitiusTech provides a range of digital healthcare technology and consulting services to help over 130 leading healthcare and life sciences organizations worldwide. The company has grown to over 8,000 professionals today across multiple locations in India and globally, with strong expertise across healthcare consulting, digital health solutions, product engineering, data, analytics and AI/ML. Anupam Shrivastava, SVP & Head - Talent Management added, "Pune is important for CitiusTech from a talent point of view, and the addition of this facility makes Pune our second largest location in India, after Mumbai. We continue to grow at an ac-



celerated pace and are on the lookout for technology professionals who want to make a meaningful difference by building solutions that impact human life." CitiusTech recently acquired Wilco Source, one of the world's leading providers of Salesforce consulting and implementation services for healthcare and life sciences companies. Earlier in October, the company welcomed Bain Capital Private Equity as an investor, joining existing shareholder BPEA EQT who acquired a majority stake in CitiusTech in 2019.

Well-known actor Sachin Khedekar unveils 'Metamorphosis' coffee table book



Pune (Voice news service):- As a part of its multi-pronged efforts to increase awareness on organ donation, Sahyadri Hospitals today organized a special program to mark organ donation day (27th Nov) and salute the noble gesture of organ donors and their families & the incredible fighting spirit of patients and their families for coming out against all odds to live healthy life again. Well-known actor Sachin Khedekar unveiled 'Metamorphosis' coffee table book which showcases the inspiring transformational stories of these patients. The occasion was also special as Sahyadri Hospitals recently clocked its 300th liver transplant in a short span of just six years.

Guest of Honour Dr. Radhakishan Pawar, Deputy Director of Health Services Department and Dr. Nagnath Yempalle Civil Surgeon along with Abrar Ali Dalal, CEO Sahyadri Hospitals, Dr. Bipin Vibhute, Director and Head of Organ Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery Department of Sahyadri Hospitals and Dr. Prasad Muglikar Medical Director, Dr. Vikas Karne Chief Medical Services Deccan Unit and other team members were present on the occasion. The coffee table book is a part of the 'Liv Again' campaign started by Sahyadri Hospitals which will include awareness sessions in peripheral areas, OPDs amongst other activities. Sachin Khedekar said that it is

difficult to put into words how Dr. Vibhute and his team have given life to so many people. The transplant process is long, time-bound and involves many people. Transplantation is like reincarnation. In acting we say that we entered alienation, and alienation entered and people believed that it wasn't them, it was somebody else, but we knew that they were saying. Even though this is a fantasy in my opinion, you can make the fantasy in your mind a reality. It is a great achievement for you as a medical expert. Today, I am happy that you have reestablished 300 families. Those who are sick, those who need medical help are looking forward with hope. Donors are donating in a selfless spirit, but misconceptions about this should be removed. Dr. Bipin Vibhute, Director and Head of Organ Transplantation & Hepatobiliary Surgery, Sahyadri Hospitals, said that there is no doubt that awareness and confidence amongst common people about organ donation is increasing as they witness the

success rates of transplants. He added that earlier apart from the myths about organ donation, cost associated with transplant and the people's perception was another challenge. But now it's changing. We have been continuous efforts by opening up liver transplant facilities at our Nashik and Karad Units, Sahyadri Hospitals Karad unit has become India's first Taluka level Centre to have Liver Transplant facility. We have also been conducting the Liver Champion campaign in various smaller towns in Maharashtra where we have been felicitating people who have undergone liver transplants are leading a normal life and inspiring others. Abrarali Dalal, CEO Sahyadri Hospitals Group, said organ retrieval and transplant is a long, extensive but a time bound process which needs to be carried out seamlessly with the help of a multi divisional team including *doctors, nurses, counsellors, *transplant coordinators, blood banks, ZITCC, traffic police who

have been creating green corridors, support staff etc and the NGOs who have also helped needy patients especially small children. He added that that we have been in the forefront of organ donation and transplant programs. Liver Champions program, taluka level facility at Karad, programs for organ donation pledge are all a part of this effort. The liver transplant team at Sahyadri Hospitals consists of Dr. Bipin Vibhute, Liver and Multi-Organ Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgeon along with Transplant Hepatologist and Gastroenterologist Dr. Sheetal Mahajani along liver transplant surgeons Dr. Anirudh Bhosle, Dr. Apoorva Deshpande, Dr. Vikas Chaudhary & Dr. Abhijit Mane, Pediatric Hepatologist Dr. Snehvardhan Pandey, Transplant Anesthetist Dr. Manish Pathak, Dr. Manoj Raut, Dr. Kiran Tathe, Medical Social Worker Mrs. Sharmila Padhye, Transplant Coordinator Rahul Tambe and Aman Belle.

Mr. Prabhat Chaturvedi, CEO, Netafim Agricultural Financing Agency (NAFA)

Pune (Voice news service):- The fifth straight increase in repo rate and focus on the withdrawal of accommodation by the Central bank to control hovering inflationary concerns and macro-economic scenarios were expected. However, going forward, the rate hikes would start impacting the growth of the domestic economy. The central bank must maintain the neutral or positive zone of the repo rate while focusing

inflation control within a tolerated threshold. As the country is on a bright spot in the global economy, currently, it's an opportunity for India to grow and consolidate gains. As India wants to make MSMEs self-reliant, higher interest rates will increase the cost of borrowing for MSMEs. It could lead a slowdown in investment and expansion plans and impact profitability for the sector. MSMEs are already battling inflation headwinds,

lower demand, and loan interests. As MSMEs requires certainty of funds, we believe they would be at the edge to absorb this surge in the repo rate.



YouTube unveils India's most popular creators and videos of 2022

Pune (Voice news service):- YouTube today unveiled the most popular creators, artists and videos of 2022. YouTube uses a carefully considered methodology to publish the lists including Top Trending Videos, Top Music Videos, Top Shorts, Top 20 Breakout Creators, Top Breakout Women Creators and Top Creators.

Viewers are, now, connecting the most with creators and artists who produce content across multiple formats. The interplay between video on demand, short form content and live stream is evident on YouTube - and reflected in the annual lists. Viewers shared a laugh over a dystopian short-film, while following the short-takes of a lovable housekeeper. They passionately pursued hobbies and interests, from watching a 4-hour long e-sports live stream to 60-second strokes of immersive art. Millions vibed to the peppy viral hit that transformed a local peanut-vendor into a national wonder! And many others dived deep into an ocean of entrepreneurial opportunity, seeking inspiration with a dash of humor.

Here's three trends that YouTube's 2022 lists tell us about pop culture in India. Multi-format creation is driving momentum for pop culture. Mainstream content gained new levels of relevance because creators reinterpreted them for their communities through different formats and styles. For instance: From official episode highlights to chart-topping spoofs and re-

turned to Shorts to share snippets of their daily life in their own language and inimitable style. For Gen-Z, YouTube is not only a platform to share their unique worldview, but also a window to a world without borders. Here, they can cultivate interests, go deep into topics they love, whet their curiosity or even discover niche skills. A new generation of filmmakers emerge with high-production values, engaging scripts and all-round entertainment, YouTube creators are delivering blockbusters, and even "shortbusters". Even as a full length feature and a dramatic short-film made it to the top trending videos, scripted content is also taking off in short-form across languages, with snappy, fast paced, quick witted episodes.

It's a wrap for the 13th edition of India's happiest music festival – BACARDÍ NH7 Weekender



Pune (Voice news service):- BACARDÍ and NODWIN Gaming have successfully wrapped up the 13th edition of India's happiest music festival, BACARDÍ NH7 Weekender. Held at Pune's Mahalakshmi Lawns from the 25th to the 27th of November, the 3-day multi-music genre festival was attended by thousands of fans from Pune and other cities across the country.

The 13th edition of BACARDÍ NH7 Weekender celebrated the spirit of '#13MeraWeekender', which was instrumental in bringing together some phenomenal talent for an equally passionate and growing number of music fans. This year, the festival was host to 4 stages - BACARDÍ Arena, 13 Mera Stage, Casa BACARDÍ, and Casa Indie - which kept the audience engaged and on their feet for hours. With a lineup of 40+ indie Indian and international artists, this year featured a true-blooded musical weekend with a diverse pool of talent including some of India's most talented Hip-hop, metal, indie, and pop artists, and jaw-dropping headliners from

the global arena. Metal fans vibed at the mosh pit at the high-energy acts by artists like Bloodywood, Kraken, Gutslit, Pacifist, and Down Troddence. Folks who love contemporary flows enjoyed acts like The F16s, Yashraj, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya, Anuv Jain, Parekh & Singh, Mame Khan, Tejas and Kamakshie Khanna. Hip Hop acts like international star J.I.D and Homegrown artists like Hanumankind, Wild Wild Women, Meba Ofilia, KRSNA, MC Altaf, and PAV4N made the audience jump. The festival also saw soul-touching performances by international artists like American folk rock band The Lumineers, Dirty Loops, a Swedish Jazz, R&B, and Pop band, and Tiny Fingers, an Israeli Band who all brought to the fore diverse musical expressions. Sameeksha Uniyal, Brand Lead, BACARDÍ India & South East Asia, said, "Our consumers are at the heart of everything we do and we are thrilled with how BACARDÍ NH7 Weekender came alive once again this year. The 13th edition - #13MeraWeekender was bigger and better, with a mélange of multi-genre music, immersive experiences, and creative expression. We are humbled to be a platform for many seasoned, upcoming, and aspiring musicians and a space for fans to discover new music, as they are the backbone that makes our festival a pulsating, rocking success. At BACARDÍ NH7 Weekender, there is always something for everyone and this year was truly one for the books."

Akshat Rathee, Co-founder and Managing Director, NODWIN Gaming, added, "The theme for this year's NH7 Weekender was #13MeraWeekender, and we were elated to bring together fans of indie music under one roof. Audiences this year witnessed a lot of firsts, with electrifying performances from American folk rock band The Lumineers, American rapper J.I.D, Swedish band Dirty Loops, and many more. The festival was a grand success as we brought to fans a mélange of genres through this year's lineup of performers for the signature Weekender experience."

Ritesh & Genelia visit pune for promotions of movie 'Ved'



Pune (Voice news service):- Ritesh who is extensively promoting his debut directorial 'Ved' in colleges with

his wife Genelia Deshmukh. Bollywood's most adorable and cute couple, Ritesh Deshmukh direction

with Marathi film Ved, titled Ved which is touted to be a romantic drama. The film will also mark his wife, Genelia Deshmukh's debut in Marathi cinema. The film, presented by Mumbai Film Company. The film, written by Sandeep S. Patil and Rushikesh Turai. Ved Tujha is a Marathi album is composed by Ajay-Atul. Ved Tujha Album has 1 song sung by Ajay-Atul, Ajay Gogavale & BESURI Song Sung by Vasudhara Vee, 'Besuri' has been penned by Ajay - Atul. Salman will make a cameo appearance in Ritesh's directorial debut Ved. It also stars Jiya Shankar, Ashok Saraf and Shubhankar Tawde in pivotal roles. The film is all set to hit screens on December 30, 2022.

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Victoria : Ek Rahasya is an upcoming Marathi movie scheduled to be released on 16 Dec, 2022

Pune (Voice news service):- Victoria : Ek Rahasya directoria debut Virajas Kulkarni & Jeet Ashok. The film stars Pushkar Jog, Sonalee Kulkarni, Aashay Kulkarni and Hira Sohal in pivotal roles. After the success of Te and Te, Well Done Baby, Anand Pandit Motion Pictures LLP and Goosebumps Entertainment are coming up with a new film. Pushkar Jog, Sonali Kulkarni and Ashay Kulkarni starrer 'Victoria' has been mostly shot in Scotland. Heera Sohal is debuting as an actress. The story, screenplay and dialogues of this film are written by Omkar Gokhale, Jeet Ashok and Virajas Kulkarni. Also this is actor Pushkar Jog's third film with Sonali

Kulkarni, before this he has done two films Ti and Ti, Tamasha Live. The film is produced by Anand Pandit, Rupa Pandit and Pushkar Jog, with Vaishal Shah as the co-producer. Sonalee Kulkarni and Jeet

Ashok who visit the Victoria hotel and encounters paranormal activities in their hotel rooms which will leave you in a lot of fear with its scariest scenes. The story, screenplay and dialogues of 'Victoria' are

penned by Omkar Gokhale, Jeet Ashok and Virajas Kulkarni. Filmmaker Anand Pandit and Pushkar Jog's upcoming Marathi film 'Victoria' hit screens on December 16, 2022.

Grandmaster Abhijit Kunte appointed on FIDE's Education Commission

1st Indian to be appointed on FIDE's Education Commission



Pune (Voice news service):-

Dhyanchand awardee Grandmaster Abhijit Kunte has been selected on the global format, as the member of Election Commission of FIDE. World Chess Federation announced the same lately. Famous Grandmaster from Maharashtra, Abhijit Kunte's contribution towards Chess

and the several Chess related organisations, proved to be remarkable...It is therefore he has been assigned for the post of Election Commission member. While expressing his joy over his selection, the Grandmaster said that this is a proud moment for him...We are now going to take special ef-

orts to promote Chess globally. This channel will help Chess reach the grass root level.. Commission has done a remarkable job so far..It is therefore important for me having got an opportunity to work with them, said delighted Grandmaster Abhijit Kunte.

World No 17 Cilic leads field alongside 16 top-100 players as 5th edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra kicks off on December 31

South Asia's only ATP 250 event will go on till January 7 in Pune



Pune (Voice news service):- World number 17 Marin Cilic will headline a strong singles field at the fifth edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra along with 16 other top-100 players when South Asia's only ATP 250 event returns to the opening week of the calendar and kicks off at the Balewadi Stadium in Pune on December 31.

The Tata Open Maharashtra, owned by IMG and managed by RISE, will be conducted by the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) for the fifth year in Pune. The last two editions of the tournament were held in the first week of February. However, now the players can gear up for the season's first Grand Slam—Australian Open, by competing in Pune. MSLTA will host the tournament, which is sponsored by Tata Group, in association with the Government of Maharashtra. "Hosting Tata Open Maharashtra is a great pride not just for Maharashtra but also for the country. The upcoming edition will be a celebration of five glorious years of tennis in Pune. The tournament returning to January first week is really satisfying for us as organisers because there will be more exciting competition in the presence of bigger names and this singles acceptance list reflects the same. We are looking forward to welcoming all the players, officials and the fans to make this fifth edition even more special," said Prashant Sutar, Tournament Director of Tata Open Maharashtra. The 2014 US Open Champion, Cilic has won this tournament twice, in 2009 and 2010, and also reached semi-finals in 2018. He would look to add another trophy to his cabinet.



Apart from Croatian Cilic, the singles main draw will feature five other top-50 players: Netherlands' Botic van de Zandschulp (ranked 35), Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori (ranked 40), Argentina's Sebastian Baez (ranked 43), American Jensen Brooksby (48) and Slovakia's Alex Molcan (50). The highly competitive field also consists of 11 other top-100 players with the cut-off standing at 115 for direct entry. Zandschulp competed in all four Majors in the 2022 season, losing the Wimbledon pre-quarterfinals and the Roland Garros Round of 32 to Rafael Nadal. He also ended as a runner-up at the Munich ATP 250, his best show of the season. "We are proud to say that we have left no stone unturned in making the tournament a success for all the stakeholders. It's a competitive field this year with a lot of international talent coming in to Pune. I am sure the players, their coaches and the officials will have a good time in Pune," said Organising Secretary Pravin Darade, who is also an IAS officer and Principal Secretary Environment, Government of Maharashtra. Last edition's runner-up Ruusuvuori made good progress through the year, taking three wins over top-20 players while Baez featured in three ATP 250 events in the first half of the season, winning in Estoril and finishing runner-up in Bastad and Santiago. Brooksby also had reasonable success as he reached two finals (Dallas and Atlanta) and would look to go the full distance in Pune. Molcan, a southpaw, managed to reach finals in Lyon and Marrakech, where he recorded a stunning win over top-10 Felix Auger-Aliassime. The qualifying event will begin on December 31 while the main draw will be played from January 2-7.

HIGHLY ANTICIPATED FOURTH SEASON OF THE TENNIS PREMIER LEAGUE TEES OFF TODAY!

Pune (Voice news service):- The Tennis Premier League is set to kick off 7th December 2022, at the magnificent Balewadi Stadium in Pune. The grand opening ceremony of the Tennis Premier League was attended by Mr Shyam Patel, Owner of the Mumbai Leon Army, Mr Kapil Jhaveri, Owner of the Bengaluru Spartans, Mr Brijgopal Bhutada, Owner of the Finecab Hyderabad Strikers, Mr Raminder Singh, Owner of the Punjab Tigers, Mr Sneha Patel, Owner of the Delhi Binny's Brigade, Mr Ramku Patgir, Owner of the Gujarat Panthers, Mr Shailesh Alagiya, Owner of the Chennai Stallions and Mr Punit Balan, Owner of the Pune Jaguars. Actress and Co-owner of the Pune Jaguars, Mrs Sonali Bendre also attended the vibrant opening ceremony of the Tennis Premier League. S.K. Music Works put on an outstanding show at the Tennis Pre-



mier League opening ceremony after recently performing at the Qatar FIFA World Cup 2022 opening ceremony. The first day of the revolutionary league will see Delhi Binny's Brigade take on the Pune Jaguars at 4.30pm in the first fixture. The next fixture on Day 1 will kick-off at 5.55pm between Gujarat Panthers and Mumbai Leon Army which will be followed by a match between Bengaluru Spartans and the latest franchise of the TPL, Punjab Tigers, which will kick-off at

7.20pm. The last fixture of Day 1 of the Tennis Premier League will see Chennai Stallions take on Finecab Hyderabad Strikers which will commence at 8.45 pm. The Co-Founder of the innovative league Mrunal Jain, spoke about the season 4 of the Tennis Premier League commencing with jubilation as he said, "Finally the fourth season of the Tennis Premier League is starting. We have been waiting for this day eagerly for a while now.

We are going to witness some highly competitive and exciting matches here on the first day. I am sure tennis fans here at the Balewadi Stadium will make the fourth season a grand success." Kunal Thakkur, Co-Founder of the Tennis Premier League mirrored the sentiment as he said, "The fourth season of the Tennis Premier League is going to be bigger than ever. Today is only the first day and we already have a large number of fans filling the seats here at the Balewadi Stadium. We are going to get to witness some elite level of tennis, this is testament to how revolutionary the league is especially for Indian tennis fans who will get to see some of the biggest stars of Indian and International tennis compete against each other." All the action from the Balewadi Stadium can be witnessed live on SONY TEN 2 channels and the OTT platform SonyLIV starting from 4.30pm

Olympic-style SFA Championships Pune 2022 kickstarts on Sunday

Pune (Voice news service):- With the aim to promote and revolutionize sports at the grassroots level in Pune, Sports For All (SFA), India's leading fully integrated digital plus on-ground multi-sport platform, will be conducting the inaugural edition of the SFA Championships Pune from December 11 to 17. The one-of-a-kind championship will witness a total participation of 8200 from more than 500 schools across the city and boast a prize pool of close to INR 3 lakh. Besides schools and students, SFA will also honor the valuable efforts of the coaches in sports by presenting them with INR 12 lakh in reward program. A seven-day long exciting tournament will be held at five ven-

ues—Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Viman Nagar International Skating Rink, Deccan Gymkhana Club, Tilak Tank Deccan Gymkhana and Spicer Adventist University. Rising stars from Loyola High School, PICT Model School, Dr. Kalmadi Shamrao High School, Symbiosis International School, and many more schools across the city will get a platform to showcase their talent in a multi-sport event. "We, at SFA, have been focused on bringing in the change at the grassroots level by generating interest and increasing participation with much-needed opportunities for every child to play. The SFA Championships have been integral in fulfilling that aim by building an environment where

talent gets the recognition it deserves and the nurturing it needs. The wide array of schools in Pune has valued the development of sports at the grassroots level as much as its quality of education which aligns impeccably with our vision. In spite of this being the championships' first edition in the city, we have received an overwhelming response from the schools and we are really looking forward to this inaugural edition of the SFA Championships," said Samera Khan, Chief Marketing Officer, Sports For All. Since its inception in 2015, more than 1,60,000 students from over 3,500 schools have participated in 11 editions of SFA championships in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Dehradun so far. Contributing to the

national sporting canvas at the grassroots level, SFA has played a pivotal role in the prestigious National Games, Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games and is also the official partner of the Indian Olympic Association for the Tokyo Olympics 2020, Commonwealth Games 2022 and Asian Games 2022.

Pune geared up to witness its first 'Rotary Boxing - Fight Night' at MIT ADT University Campus in Loni Kalbhor



Pune (Voice news service):- Boxing lovers of Pune are all set to witness an enthralling contest of fist and fury when the first fight card of the Rotary Boxing Pune Fight Night unfolds at MIT ADT University Campus in Loni Kalbhor on Sunday. The Rotary Boxing- Pune Fight Night is the first of many events planned as part of the Professional Boxing Fight Series, which is being organized in the city by Rotary Club of Pune Central and Indian Boxing Council (IBC) in the coming months. The Pune Fight Night is being organized by Rotary Club of Pune Central

and sponsored by MIT Group of institutions and CT Pundole & Sons. The Rotary Boxing - Pune Fight Night on Sunday consists of 7 bouts, including a National Boxing Title each in the Men's and Women categories. Both National Boxing Title bouts are sanctioned by the World Boxing Council. Both Titles Men's & Women's will be of 8 rounds each. All the 7 fights will be telecast live globally on the World Boxing Council Live TV, powered by the VIVE network. Talking about the event, President of RCPC, Mr Uday Dhar-



madhikari said, "We are proud to present an event to the city, which will not only entertain the spectators but will also bring more people together, to work for many social causes and the betterment of Pune city?" President of IBC, Brig PKM Raja said the Sunday event will kickstart the series of Professional boxing in Pune and promises to engage the sports lovers of the city. "Professional boxers across the country are doing well at National and International level. Cities like Delhi, Gurugram, Hyderabad and many more have been organising Fight Nights, but

this is the first time Pune will witness something as grand as this. We are committed to presenting a sporting extravaganza to the citizens of Pune and wish to make Professional boxing a household name in the city," Brig Raja said. Professor Vishwanath Karad, Chairman & Founder of MIT World Peace University and a leading Educationist and prominent Business Leader and Cawas Pundole, Promoter and MD of Cawas Pundole and Sons, Pune's largest timekeeper, have extended their support to the RCPC Knock Out CHD platform with generous contributions.

Storytel completes five years in India

Pune (Voice news service):- Swedish audiobook streaming platform Storytel has recently completed five glorious years in India. Storytel India which launched its subscription based audiobook streaming service on 27 November 2017 with just 400 odd titles in English, Hindi and Marathi today boasts of over 400,000 titles in audiobook and ebook formats in 12 languages.

Yogesh Dashrath, Country Manager, Storytel India said that, "storytelling has always been a part of our tradition. We have always heard of various types of stories from our grandparents and therefore listening to such stories always has an instant connect. But to leverage this connect was a challenge as there was no ecosystem of audiobooks. This requires an extensive chain right from content creators, storytellers, narrators, proof listeners to also getting well-known authors, publishers and narrators onboard. After extensive research, study and gathering information on technical aspects, we started our efforts to bring in best literature in vernacular languages on this platform. We were encouraged by the fact that this had a good connect with the audience because they were getting the content in their own language including Hindi, Marathi, Malayalam, Tamil, Bengali, Gujarati, Oriya, Assamese,

Kannada etc which was naturally comfortable for them." Five years down the line Storytel India has one of the best collections of audiobooks in the country comprising of the best classics to the bestsellers in the most diverse set of languages. It also offers exclusive titles thanks to its partnership with some of the biggest regional publishers.

Storytel India is a part of Storytel which is one of the world's largest subscription-based audiobook and ebook streaming service providers with presence in more than 20 countries with a base of over 2 million subscribers. Yogesh Dashrath further said that after acquiring the rights to the best literature in Indian languages, Storytel made special efforts to produce quality audio-productions befitting them. Renowned artists in every language were requested to read the best books of their choice. Many celebrities have lent their voices to audiobooks out of their love for language and the desire to use the vocal skills acquired while acting. Storytel has made a major contribution in inspiring famous actors to read audiobooks for Storytelling and making great material available thereby popularizing audiobooks as a medium. Storytel has entered into content distribution agreements with all these publishers to make their audiobooks available on the Storytel app.

Joyous celebrations of Mass Marriages of 12 couples held at Punyadham Ashram

Pune (Voice news service):- The pleasant wintry morning of Sunday 4th December 2022 brought with it all the hustle-bustle of wedding arrangements at Punyadham Ashram, Pune. The excitement, energy and anticipation of the approx 2500 people at the venue was infectious. It was indeed a heartwarming experience for all who had the opportunity to witness 12 couples from humble backgrounds, hailing from different parts of Maharashtra, tie the knot at a special Mass Marriage ceremony organized by Punyadham Ashram. This is the 6th consecutive year that this noble ceremony has been organized.

"Every year Punyadham Ashram organizes Mass Marriage of girls whose families cannot afford the expenses of an elaborate wedding. The girls are supported to fulfil their dreams of having a beautiful wedding ceremony with their families & friends. This unique institution is trying to bring about a change in the mindset of the populace by discouraging the custom of dowry", smiles Maa Krishna Kashyap, Chairperson, who has made 'Service to God through Service to Humanity' her mission in life!

The brides looked radiant in Gold-Red sarees, beautifully adorned jewelry and the grooms smartly dressed in 'Sherwanis, phetas &



mojris'. The groom's baraat procession came in with all the baraatis dancing and the brides' families eagerly awaiting to welcome the grooms. Finally, after the grooms joined their respective brides in the beautifully decorated mandap, the learned pandits started chanting the wedding ceremonies. The varmala, saat-pheras & kanyadaan were performed in presence of all esteemed guests. The marriage ceremony was performed in traditional Maharashtrian antarpat, followed by the pheras and the kanyadaan ceremony. All the guests then proceeded for a lavish and sumptuous Maharashtrian lunch which was enjoyed thoroughly by everyone.

Maa Kashyap, in the presence of Sadananda Shetty, President, then blessed the young couples and distributed gifts in the form of the bridal trousseau of new clothes, blankets, and all necessary

household items to help the newlyweds start their married life. It was now time for the proverbial 'bidaai' when the bride bade a tearful farewell to her parents and accompanied the groom with his family to her new home to start their wedded life. This was such an emotional moment for all present and this moment made organizing these marriage ceremonies truly worthwhile. All in all, the entire ceremony was a resounding success and a memorable one for everyone who was part of it.

The whole credit for this immensely noble initiative, goes to Maa Krishna Kashyap, who meticulously planned this massive event which was perfectly executed. Without her wholehearted support and gracious presence and inspiration, none of the activities of Punyadham ashram are possible. Vishwa Jagriti Mission Trust, Pune is a non-profit organisation

which runs Punyadham Ashram, primarily a Senior Citizens' Home in a beautiful, serene campus. The premise also has a glorious Shree Siddeshwar Mahadev Mandir, a magnificent Shikhar of Mt Kailash, a resplendent Sai Mandir, a Gaushala with more than 35 indigenous breed cows, a Library, a Reading Room, and the Krishna Avataar Sanskritik Bhavan which can accommodate 3000 people at a time and is used for social, spiritual and cultural programs.

Apart from this Punyadham Ashram also conducts many social welfare activities like rehabilitation of families affected by natural calamities, sponsoring the education of deserving girls from insurgency hit areas of Maharashtra, conducting mass marriages for the families of poor and destitute farmers, conducting medical camps and motivational programs for women inmates of the Yerwada jail and so on.

Pune to host 10th edition of 'Devfest 2022'

Pune (Voice news service):- Google Developer Group (GDG), a voluntary organization set up in 2011 to foster creativity amongst young techies is organizing the 10th edition of 'Devfest2022' on 11 December 2022 at JW Marriot, SB Road.

DevFest is a global tech conference hosted by the Google Developer Groups (GDG) community. Each DevFest event is crafted by its local organizers to fit the learning needs and interests of their local developer community, with a strong focus on knowledge exchange and networking.

Mahaveer Muttha, Organizer of Google Developer Group, Pune and one of the organizers of Devfest Pune said that the technical conference is a perfect platform for young developers with full day of conference talks, workshops and networking sessions with the world's leading industry experts and top practitioners focusing on multiple technologies.

Swapnil Jathar GDG Pune co-organiser informed that more than 1200 young techies including women entrepreneurs are expected to participate in this year's fest which is packed with various initiatives. DevFest Pune this year will be a sensation, narrating the theme & culture of the state through a tech conference.

Namrata More WTM (

Women Techmakers), Pune Ambassador said that the fest will also include Projects Showcase Booth for companies and communities, Career fair - an opportunity for local developers that are a part of Google Developer Groups and a Community Lounge which will be a dedicated community lounge for informal sessions that give a chance for like-minded attendees to gather and discuss tools, topics and technologies in a relaxed setting.

Pranoti Nandurkar, WTM Pune Ambassador added that the focus will be on how product innovation, open source, and ML and AI can propel enterprises forward and solve the big problems that impact all of us. Devfest2022 will have more than 45 industry experts deliberating on more than 20 technologies across 3 tracks.

Women Techmakers Ambassadors are leaders around the world who are passionate about empowering their communities who are looking to create impact and give back to their communities through organizing events, public speaking, creating content, and mentoring. With access to a global community and exclusive resources, Ambassadors are helping build a world where all women can thrive in tech.

One of the key highlights of DevFest Pune has been the participation of Women entrepreneurs and techies.

Learning Links Foundation concludes the first skills program in Telangana aerospace sector for People with Disabilities

Pune (Voice news service):- Learning Links Foundation (LLF) has successfully concluded the first skills program in for Telangana aerospace manufacturing sector exclusively for People with Disabilities (PWDs). As part of the Learn and Earn initiative, this unique youth skilling program is supported by Boeing and Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL). A first batch of 17 trainees, with speech and hearing impairment and locomotive disabilities, have undergone classroom training, followed by on-the-job training at TBAL. The curriculum focussed on developing skills in archiving, maintenance, inspection, stores, and safety audit domains for Foreign Object Debris (FOD) in the aerospace manufacturing sector. The program structure provided the trainees with soft skills and a deep learning experience, which they can leverage to secure employment opportunities with various aerospace manufacturing Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) operating in Telangana. Upon completion of the training, all the trainees have been offered employment by TBAL.

The ceremony was held in the presence of Sir Michael Arthur (President Boeing International), Brendon Nelson (President, Boeing Australia), Scott Drach (Vice President HR, Boeing International), Ajay Sharma (Director HR, Boeing India), Laura Legra (Chief of Staff, Boeing International), Praveena Yagnambhat (Chief of Staff & BGE Lead, Boeing India & South Asia) from Boeing and other dignitaries from the two companies.

"Boeing is working closely with LLF and our Indian partners to help skill and develop the local aerospace and defence ecosystem, to support the vision of Skill India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat," said Salil Gupta, President, Boeing India. "Through the years, we have invested in building partnerships within the Indian aerospace ecosystem to build capabilities

which can further our vision of equity, diversity, inclusion and beyond," he added.

"At Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), we strive to build a fair and supportive environment that facilitates people from varied backgrounds in pursuing a meaningful career. We believe, such efforts through strategic actions will not only advance diversity & inclusion for differently abled, but it will also create a pool of job opportunities in the aerospace and defence industry," - said a TASL Spokesperson. "At Learning Links Foundation, we are committed to fostering purpose and progress in learners by kindling the spirit of lifelong learning. Learn & Earn Program is a true embodiment of our vision and it is fulfilling to see how it has been a life-altering milestone in the lives of course participants," said Ms. Nuriya Ansari, Managing Partner, Learning Links Foundation.

Since its inception, the Learn & Earn Program has already benefitted 207 individuals,

of which 26% are girls and 13% PWDs, and helped them attain jobs in various industries. It is a unique program that aims to bridge the skill gap in youth by curating an industry-need-aligned training curriculum that can help them readily obtain employment as a productive workforce. The program aims to further strengthen the aerospace ecosystem in the country and is in line with the Government of India's "Skill India" initiatives. Boeing has been supporting the growth of the Indian aerospace sector over the years by addressing the critical and growing need to skill frontline workers for the aerospace manufacturing sector. Learn and Earn, a collaboration between LLF and Boeing, is a unique skill-building program to help create a skilled and employable workforce for the aerospace manufacturing sector. Boeing-funded Learn and Earn Programs have been launched along with several other partners in India as well.

Sport tech startup GoPPlay launches its app, raises pre-seed funding from prominent investors



Pune (Voice news service):- GoPPlay, part of Breathe Sports, a Pune-based sports technology startup, launched its platform for its users today. The company has raised an undisclosed amount from prominent angel investors based out of India & abroad in its pre-seed funding round. It has also recently been funded by Google, where it received US\$ 100K under the Google for Startups Cloud Program, in credits. The funding will not only take care of the initial tech infrastructure costs but also put the company in a select group of startups backed by Google. The fresh funds raised will predominantly be used for team building, developing technology for the app and user acquisition. The app has been launched on the Google Play store, and shall soon be available on the IOS store as well.

GoPPlay was co-founded in April 2021 by Dhruv Sharma, an IIM-Lucknow & Harvard Business School (HBS) alumnus and Nishant Oberoi, an alumnus of University of Wales, with an advanced finance program from INSEAD, Singapore. The core team has over 4 decades of a

rich & complimentary experience amongst them, including Ashutosh Sharma who was acquired-hired into the founding team to lead technology, as he comes with rich experience having worked with Amazon & Infosys in the past. GoPPlay is a verticalized sports social network for recreational sports enthusiasts to connect, engage and play anywhere, whether within society premises, rooftops, backyards, offices or at-home! And of course, on courts and grounds. Features like scoring games and showcasing one's sports persona makes it very exciting for sports enthusiasts to explore and engage on GoPPlay. With "PPlayAnywhere" as its mantra, the company aims to democratize sports by building a robust global community of recreational players, fans and influencers through engaging content, fun challenges, insightful analytics and gamification to drive real physical sports.

A consortium of 11 prominent investors have invested in GoPPlay. Karan Swani is an HBS alum & former Senior Director at the private equity firm, KKR (India), and now the founder & CEO of a

multi-family office in Toronto, Canada focusing on early stage & alternative investments. He has successfully invested in multiple startups at the seed & early stages. Dr. Kulkarni is the MD of Elkay Chemicals & part of CII leadership in Pune, Nitin is a former private banker & investor based in Singapore, Manas, a Sales leader at Google, India, Prateek, a young industrialist from Kolkata. Akhil and Dhruv are investors from the sporting ecosystem, and are managing prominent Indian athletes like Ajinkya Rahane. They both also come with strong brand connects in the sporting industry.

The startup is also fortunate to count four prominent women angels as its investors. "This is special since one of our objectives is to promote more women in active recreational sports, and having women believe & invest in a sport-tech startup like ours is a big step towards achieving this," says Nishant Oberoi, one of the Founders of GoPPlay. Hanisha is a Managing Director at InCred Global Wealth based in Singapore, Pearl, an entrepreneur in India, Ruchi, a corporate lawyer from UK and Kirti, a senior professional in UK.

On their advisory panel GoPPlay has Shiva Keshavan, President of the Olympians Association of India, a six-time Winter Olympian and a four-time Asian Champion in the sport of Luge, as well as a couple of other sports professionals with deep connections in industry. Nishant Oberoi said, "Sports is the most powerful activity

that has an amazing power to unify, engage and motivate. We are excited to launch our app and close the pre-seed funding round from prominent investors. Me & Dhruv play Tennis regularly, amongst other sports, and it is through our own sporting journey as recreational players, that we realized that vast gaps existed in this space, and hence we set out to bridge these gaps. Through GoPPlay we aim to bring all sports enthusiasts on one platform to share their sporting journey, connect with more players and encourage others to play. The tech platform will also let you share your sporting experiences such as sporty photos & videos, just like you use your other social media platforms. We are happy that the investors believed in our idea and the vision to create a unified digital ecosystem for the recreational sports community that will benefit all stakeholders." "We are a B2C startup, with a blended B2B2C acquisition strategy" and hence, GoPPlay has collaborated with corporates like Brookfield, a US\$750+ Billion global asset management company, universities like The MIT University in Pune, which has over 60,000 students across multiple campuses, and sports clubs like the Ryders Club, which has over 10K members across NCR in India. GoPPlay, using its technology platform, will enable seamless organization of physical sporting events & leagues within such campuses, whilst promoting sports as an overall health & fun activity for all!"

Lexicon Institute of Hotel Management hosted "Bridge The Skill Gap" Event in association with the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council



Pune (Voice news service):- Built on the foundations of A Hotel School: By the Hoteliers, For the Hoteliers & Lexicon Institute of Hotel Management is a premier hospitality education institute that offers budding hoteliers the perfect balance of educational and experiential learning experiences. In light of the recent concerns of skilled workforce shortage in the hospitality industry, Lexicon IHM collaborated with the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council to host the "Bridge the Skill Gap Event- Strengthening The Hospitality Skills Ecosystem Through Empowerment".

The speakers at the event included Mr. Jatin Khanna, CEO of Sarovar Hotels and Resorts, Mr. Gladvin Rego, Principal of the Lexicon Institute of Hotel Management, representatives from THSC, Mr. Amol Bajaj, Head - Apprenticeship Division, Ms. Feba Abraham, Apprenticeship Division, and Mr. Visham Thapa,

Assistant Vice President- Client Acquisition Apprenticeship and Traineeship, 2COMS Consulting Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Group Chief Executive Officer, The Lexicon Group of Institutes, MultiFit & EduCrack, says "Recruiting and retaining talent has been a big challenge for the hospitality and tourism industry. A lack of skilled talent directly affects the customer experience. It can have a long lasting impact on the brand image and eventually, revenues. I believe that the Recruit-Train-Deploy model, if implemented appropriately, can serve as an effective solution. It improves the employability scope of aspirants and can attract talent through short-term skilling programs to meet immediate industry requirements. It is a win-win scenario for both employee and employer. This was an important session as it highlighted, the need of the hour, by emphasizing on various tools

that can help in developing an ecosystem that will be beneficial for individuals who aspire to establish careers in the hospitality segment. We are thankful to the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council for collaborating with us on this initiative that gave us an insight into effective measures to tackle talent deficit issues in the industry."

The event focused on various aspects of the Hospitality Skills Ecosystem, starting with the future of hospitality traits that highlighted the trends shaping the hospitality industry and the skills required to adapt to these trends. In his address, Mr. Amol Bajaj, Head - Apprenticeship Division, THSC, also introduced the concept of apprenticeship programs that allows young individuals to Learn, Earn and Quality for industry-specific jobs, which also helps improve skilling and recruitment in the industry. He illustrated the design of an efficient Recruit-Train-Deploy model that can successfully help bridge the skill gap and become a vital tool for hiring.

Mr. Bajaj also emphasized the importance of Quality/Skilled team members contribution towards generating valuable revenue. "With the "Bridge the Skill Gap" event, we sought to emphasize the need to develop sustainable skill ecosystems using vari-

ous tools such as Apprenticeship Programs, efficient hiring strategies and building talent pipelines. To assist hoteliers in implementing apprenticeship programs, Ms. Feba Abraham, Apprenticeship Division, THSC, shed light on the new reforms and legalities of the Apprenticeship program by the Government of India. Towards the end of the event, Mr. Visham Thapa, Assistant Vice President- Client Acquisition Apprenticeship and Traineeship, 2COMS Consulting Pvt. Ltd., spoke about the advantages of expansion of the apprenticeship programs through collaboration with Sector Skill Council and Third Party Aggregators, which will also result in further strengthening the skilling ecosystem and help the hospitality and tourism industry reap maximum benefits from Apprenticeship programs.

By bringing together vital industry stakeholders such as National Skill Development Corporation, Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council, Poona Hoteliers Association, along with industry leaders, under one roof, the "Bridge the Skill Gap" event has taken a positive step towards enabling organizations and the industry successfully utilize resources and tools to develop a sustainable ecosystem for the creation of skilled workforces.

Lexicon MILE students visit the Pune Metro Rail Limited as a part of their Industrial Visit

Pune (Voice news service):- The students of Lexicon MILE, along with their faculty members, recently visited Pune Metro Rail Limited as a part of their industrial visit.

Industrial visits are an integral part of the curriculum at Lexicon MILE, as they believe experiential education plays a crucial role in the overall growth and development of the students. Lexicon MILE offers enriching learning experiences through Industrial Visits to ensure their students are introduced to the practical aspects of the work culture and

operations of a company, helping them transform into Day Zero Professionals.

A team of 307 students and faculty members visited Pune Metro Rail Limited. Students undertook a to-and-fro ride from Garware Metro station to Vana Metro Station. The students were introduced to the various unique features of metro trains and explored the Metro Railway Stations, Key Operations Area, Control Rooms, Workshops, Maintenance Depots, etc. "At Lexicon MILE, we ensure that students get ample opportuni-

ties to help them thrive in the challenging corporate world. We prioritize experiential learning which allows our students to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts they learn in class and witness relevant applications in real life. It encourages them to interact with seasoned professionals and acquire valuable insights which contribute to their evolution into Future-Ready Day Zero Professionals" says, Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO, The Lexicon Group of Institutes, MultiFit and EduCrack. "The prime objective of the visit

was to acquaint students with the working of Metro Rail and to create awareness about the modern transit system.

The students had a great time learning about the upcoming modern mobility infrastructure in Pune. We take this opportunity to thank the Pune Metro for assisting our students and allowing them to learn through this valuable experience," says Dr. Jitender Kumar Sharma, Director, Lexicon MILE. The Pune Metro aims to provide world-class urban mobility infrastructure for Pune,

Smiths Group India supports SOS Children's Village Pune with INR 38 Lakhs investment in solar panels



Pune (Voice news service):- Smiths Group India, part of the British-based global industrial technology company improving the world through smarter engineering, is supporting India's largest self-implementing NGO, SOS Children's Village of India in Pune, with the installation of solar panels worth over INR 38 lakhs. The solar panels have been set-up at SOS Children's Village and Youth Home in Pune under the CSR programme 'Akruti: Reshaping Lives by Smiths'. Akruti aims at en-

gaging Smiths colleagues in India in a meaningful way to contribute to the communities. In turn, this forms part of Smiths Group's wider sustainability efforts. The installed solar panels will play a vital role in encouraging sustainability, vital for the preservation of the environment, and indirectly for securing wholesome development of children / youth. In addition, three family homes at SOS Children's Village Pune, Bawana and Kochi are being sponsored by the Company. Mr. Sumanta Kar, Secretary

General, SOS Children's Villages of India, said: "We would like to thank Smiths Group in India for supporting SOS Children's Village of India with solar panels, helping us take another step towards sustainability and green technology. This will not only help our Village in Pune reduce its carbon footprint, but also reduce the outward cashflow for electricity consumption. With growing threats to our ecosystem due to excessive carbon emission and to have a healthy community, it is vital to preserve environmental health.

The solar panels set up at SOS Children's Village Pune helped educate children even more about sustainability and make sense of their role as the guardians of the environment, making changes to protect the planet for the future generations." Mr. Vikrant Trilokekar, Chair, MD Council, Smiths

Group India, said, "It is extremely encouraging for us to see how our partnership with SOS Children's Village of India is progressing in India and that we are able to meaningfully add value to the lives of children, who are the future of our nation. Being a responsible organisation, our commitment is toward the communities we operate in and also towards our environment for a greater good." Solar energy is essential used for meeting growing energy demands, while staying off climate change. Although at a relatively small scale, solar panels installed at SOS Children's Villages by Smiths is a step in the right direction for a sustainable future. With the help of sponsorship received for the family home, expenses for education, food, clothing, and other amenities will be covered, ensuring further enhancement of wholesome child development.

Eaton celebrates the success of its flagship event – EnnovATIOn 3.0



Pune (Voice news service):- Power management company Eaton celebrates the success of its flagship event – EnnovATIOn 3.0. This first-of-its-kind event is a combination of the words Eaton & Innovation. It is annually hosted by Eaton's Global Supply Chain Center of Excellence (GSC CoE) at their Pune office. The aim is to empower Eaton employees, exchange ideas with budding digitalization start-ups, identify talents through college connections, and learn from industry expert speakers.

This year, GSC CoE planned a fantastic lineup of multifold events: Hackathon for employees, college connects, start-ups, functional connects, Ideathon, stakeholder visits, and quizzes. Supply-chain-related global critical business problems were identified and rolled out to the 650+ employees of GSC CoE for problem-solving. One of the highlights was the D-Talks session by Raghunath Mashelkar, Director General of CSIR (Council of

Scientific and Industrial Research).

Umakanth Nair, director of the Global Supply Chain Center of Excellence, Eaton, India said, "At Eaton, diverse skills and ideas are the keys to making meaningful contributions to our Digital Transformation and Supply Chain resilience journey. EnnovATIOn 3.0 is a highly engaging, hyper-collaborative, and fun-packed event. Through this event, we plan to celebrate the innovations and achievements of employees to make their experience more memorable at Eaton. Innovation + Standardization + Employee Engagement is our secret sauce to success." Under the 'college connect' competition, students from various colleges, namely VIT, VIIT, MIT, and COEP, were invited to solve the problem statements using Data Science. Registered seven teams

and 17 students from the above colleges were invited to the Eaton office.

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India Germany strengthen partnership on the skills agenda

Pune (Voice news service):- To propel economic growth by empowering the youth with the right skills and providing them the access to right opportunities, 12th meeting of the Indo-German joint working group was held today in New Delhi to encourage Vocational Education and Training (VET).

The deliberations at the meeting were aimed at institutionalizing a standard mechanism for VET to meet the skill requirements in priority sectors as per the German standards. A skill mapping exercise will be undertaken to assess the skill gaps and based on the same, bridge courses and upskilling programmes will be designed for skill training of Indian workers.

Dr. KK Dwivedi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India and Mr. Alexander Hochradel, Senior Policy Officer of division 222: ERASMUS; International Cooperation in Vocational Training, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) co-chaired the meeting.

During the meeting, the two partner countries discussed on establishing a framework for employer connect and get an understanding on how skilled certified workers could participate in economic development Mutual accreditation of training providers in both countries through G2G, G2B and B2B tie-ups with relevant institutions which have international standards

for training, assessment, and certifications will also be undertaken.

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) discussed aggregation of demand requirements and employer mandates to NSDCI including job description, eligibility criteria, foreign language training and curricula details. BMBF and BMZ may also provide technical support for Training of Trainers (ToT), Trainers of Assessors (ToA), foreign language training, development of industry-relevant content and curriculum. Shri Dr. KK Dwivedi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India stated, Germany is one of India's most important partners in Europe owing to the strength of bilateral relations that we have. And the deliberations that have taken place in today's meeting will further strengthen the ties between the two nations and will ensure that we propel the economy by providing the right support and talent through vocational education and training.

There is great potential for workforce mobility from India to Germany. The fact that almost one-third of Germany's Blue Card recipients in 2021 have hailed from India, is a testimony to the vast complementarities which exist between the requirements of skills and talents in Germany and the vast

reservoir of young, educated, and skilled persons in India, who can contribute positively to India's multi-dimensional cooperation with Germany.

"Apprenticeship being one of the most sustainable models of skill development, India proposes for virtual/physical exchange programmes in academic and vocational domain focused on apprenticeship training where students will be able to earn while they work through on the job projects across both countries," he further added.

Alexander Hochradel, Senior Policy Officer of division 222: ERASMUS; International Cooperation in Vocational Training, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) said, India has an added advantage of large pool of young talent pool that has the potential to meet the requirements of skilled manpower in our country for various trades.

Undoubtedly, VET has become paramount in today's dynamic ecosystem that has seen tremendous changes post the pandemic and skilled manpower can only be the answer to address this change in today's World of Work. Under the current system of recently announced German Immigration Act, recognition of the equivalence of professional qualifications is crucial for bringing in synergies between two countries.

Further, it is envisioned to undertake mapping exercise of skill gaps in the key sectors in Germany, basis which an action plan may be designed

for bridge courses for skill training of Indian Workforce for mobility to Germany.

Earlier India has collaborated with Germany on projects like Indo-German Vocational Education Training, SINADE, IGINTE (Indo-German Initiative for Technical Education), Qual-India and iMOVEto boost overseas mobility of the Indians. Therefore, moving towards standard mechanism for skill gap mapping and global skill harmonization framework is significant to improve incomes of migrating workforce and remittance transfers.

BMBF has funded a complementary project on strengthening company models of dual VET in industrial clusters in Northern India through a bottom-up approach (SINADE). The aim of the project is to develop a corporate blueprint for dual vocational training that can be deployed to other clusters later on.

NSDCI has recently conducted study to analyse workforce demand in 16 destination countries (2022-2027). Acute shortage of skilled workforce is poised to become the key challenge for Germany in the near future which highlights the need for global skill mapping to capitalize on the emerging trends in different industries.

The demand for skilled workforce will be the most in manufacturing, healthcare, wholesale and retail, science and information technology and construction.

Add new colours to your new year as the iconic Vespa introduces 4 new vibrant additions

Pune (Voice news service):- Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd, the 100% subsidiary of the Italian Piaggio Group and maker of the iconic Vespa and sporty Aprilia range of scooters has announced the launch of four new vibrant colours for the Vespa SXL variants.

These new colours are Midnight Desert, Tuscany Sunset,

Jade Streak and Sunny Escapade.

A new limited edition Vespa SXL Sport in the new colours of Midnight Desert, Tuscany Sunset and Sunny Escapade is being introduced and the Vespa SXL Racing 60s will flaunt a new colour of Jade Streak in addition to the existing White. The standard Vespa SXL models will now

be available in two more new colours of Midnight Desert and Tuscany Sunset.

Speaking on the new colour launch, Mr. Diego Graffi, Chairman and MD, Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd., said, "We are excited to introduce the Vespa with refreshed style and vibrancy after receiving overwhelming response from our Indian customers.

Vespa is not just a scooter but an icon of Italian lifestyle and legacy which has received great love from India. With the new color portfolio of Vespa, we aim to give our customers a plethora of choices to select the best variant for them which matches their personality and to offer new riding experience which would amaze our riders."

The new colours of the Vespa SXL variants are available from 1 December 2022 across all dealers in India



Greenzo Energy India Limited brings Green Hydrogen Technology to Gujarat

Pune (Voice news service):- Delhi-based Greenzo Energy India Limited will be setting up a state-of-the-art plant for manufacturing electrolyzers and the balance of plant (BOP) for generating green hydrogen in the world-class Sanand-II Industrial Estate, a part of Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), Gujarat. For the same, the company has received an investment commitment of one million USD from Real Time Accelerator Fund (SEBI-approved Category 1 AIF). The Fund has decided to appoint Amit Singal (Founding Partner, Fluid Ventures) as investors' nominee director on the board of the company.

Cummins to power GAILs Green Hydrogen ambitions in collaboration with Maire Tecnimont



Pune (Voice news service):- Cummins, a global power solutions provider, will provide technology in collaboration with the EPC player Tecnimont Private Limited (TCMPL), the Indian subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, - to build one of India's largest proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolyzer for GAIL at Vijapur, in Madhya Pradesh, India.

Cummins will leverage its proprietary PEM electrolysis technology, one of the most advanced and efficient tech-

nologies available today, to manufacture electrolyzers for the GAIL project. This project is anticipated to produce 4.3 tons of green hydrogen per day (equivalent to ~10 MW of electrical power input).

At the commencement of this flagship project, Ashwath Ram, MD of Cummins India said, At Cummins, our approach to sustainability aligns with the company's mission to make peoples lives better by powering a more prosperous world. We are deeply aligned with Indias National Hydrogen Mission to pave the path toward zero emissions and support the transition to decarbonized power. The GAIL Green Hydrogen production project based on our PEM Electrolyzer technology is a first of its kind and will pave

the way for many such projects in the future. Cummins has a long history of advanced technology and engineering capabilities to innovate across a broad portfolio of market-leading renewable hydrogen technologies and has been a part of many of the worlds hydrogen firsts. Despite a challenging timeline, we are excited about the commencement of this project and strongly believe that decarbonization is a growth opportunity for Cummins.

As the lightest and most abundant element in the universe, hydrogen is rarely found in nature in its elemental form and is always extracted from other hydrogen-containing compounds. Thus, how well hydrogen contributes to decarbonization is determined by its production method.

Brown or grey hydrogen is produced via coal gasification or steam methane reforming; green hydrogen is produced using water electrolysis with electricity generated by renewable sources. Cummins has its proprietary PEM electrolysis technology which is used to manufacture PEM electrolyzers globally. The R&D team at Cummins continues to work on other advanced technologies of electrolysis as well.

Cummins has supplied and commissioned more than 600 electrolyzers worldwide with PEM and alkaline technologies. These electrolyzers operate successfully in leading hydrogen use cases such as hydrogen refueling stations, industrial applications, gas grids, and energy storage projects.

HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY GEARS UP FOR ITS SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE DAKAR RALLY



Pune (Voice news service):- Hero MotoSports Team Rally, the motorsport team of the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - Hero MotoCorp, today announced its rider line-up for the Dakar Rally 2023.

Following an unprecedented Dakar 2022 - where it became the first Indian manufacturer's team to win a stage at the prestigious rally - 2023 will be the team's seventh consecutive appearance at the Dakar.

At Dakar 2023, the team will have a rider squad of four members - Franco Caimi, Joaquim Rodrigues, Ross Branch, and Sebastian Buhler - two of them being Dakar stage winners.

Hero MotoSports Team Rally has had consistent performances during the 2022 racing season. The team spent several months in training and testing around the world. Team riders Caimi and Buhler returned to racing after several months of recovery from their crashes in 2021.

This is the seventh Dakar for Joaquim Rodrigues (JRod), who won a stage at the Dakar 2022. With the team since its inception in 2016, JRod's performances at the inaugural season of the World Rally Raid Championship (W2RC) were consistent and he is returning to Saudi Arabia with

the hopes of rewriting his success.

It will be the first Dakar for Ross Branch in Hero MotoSports Team Rally colors after coming on board in February 2022. Ross, however, is no stranger to the Dakar, having participated in the Rally on four previous occasions, and achieving a stage win in 2020. His performance in the first year with Hero MotoSports has been great, as he brought several stage wins and stage podiums for the team at various international rallies.

Caimi and Buhler missed the 2022 Dakar owing to unfortunate crashes in the last months preceding the Rally. However, they have recovered well over the year, and have put up highly competitive performances at the last few races of the W2RC 2022. This will be Caimi's first official appearance at the Dakar with Hero MotoSports Team Rally, and his fifth overall. For Buhler, it will be the third appearance at the Rally with the team.

This team will take on the challenges of the Dakar in Saudi Arabia astride the Hero 450 Rally bike, which now features optimizations to meet changes in the regulations - the most important of which is a new top speed limit of 160 kmph.

Dakar 2023, the fourth consecutive edition in Saudi Ara-

bia, will run for 14 stages over 15 days - two stages more than before, and is expected to be more challenging than the previous editions. The rally kicks-off on December 31st, 2022 in Jeddah and travels inland towards Ha'il. From there the race will head south-east to cross the infamous Empty Quarter, before moving northwards to the final finish at Dammam, on 15th January, 2023. A rest day after 8 stages is the only respite that the competitors will have on this route which traverses over 8600 kms, of which 4700+ kms are timed sections. A total of 365 vehicles are expected to hit the start line, with 143 of them in the motorcycles category.

The 45th Dakar Rally will also be the opening race of the 2nd edition of the World Rally Raid Championship (W2RC). Hero MotoSports is a Rally GP class participant at the W2RC, and will attend its five rounds starting with the Dakar, then Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge (Feb 2023), Sonora Rally in Mexico (Apr 2023), Desafio Ruta 40 in Argentina (Aug 2023), and closing the season with the Rallye du Maroc (Oct 2023).

Wolfgang Fischer, Team Manager, Hero MotoSports Team Rally said, "We have had a great year so far, and we look forward to starting the next season with a strong performance at the Dakar 2023. The team's preparations have been good and with all four riders in action, we are hopeful of a successful race. The bikes have been performing extremely well, and we are excited to be back for our seventh tryst with the ultimate test.

I also extend my warm wishes and thanks to all our partners and fans across the world for their continued love and support."

Joaquim Rodrigues: "The year 2022 has been highly rewarding for me, having started on a high with my first Dakar stage win. The team's performance throughout the season has been consistently improving, and we have put a lot of effort into the bike that's going into the Dakar 2023. The team and I have been training hard for the Dakar all year, and now we are looking forward to a great month in Saudi Arabia. We are hopeful of earning many victories for myself and the team."

Ross Branch: "My first year with Hero MotoSports has been an exciting and rewarding one, and I am happy to have the opportunity to represent this incredible outfit at the Dakar Rally 2023. The team has been putting a lot of passion, effort and hard work into the bike. I have also been training well and feel mentally and physically fit. I'm excited for the Dakar and looking forward to some great results for the team."

Franco Caimi: "I'm super excited to be returning to the Dakar after a gap year due to my big injury. I have recovered fully, and have been consistently improving my performance this season. We are ready for Dakar and our current momentum will prove fruitful at the Rally."

Sebastian Buhler: "It has been a long year of recovery for me after my unfortunate injury in November 2021. I have been working hard to get back to shape, and be ready for the Dakar 2023. I raced at the last two rallies of the W2RC 2022 season, and this helped me recalibrate and improve my performance a lot. The aim has been to get to the Dakar in the best shape possible, and I think we're now ready for the long month ahead."