



## Expanding Horizons: Maharashtra Tourism's Focus on Boosting Travel and Trade in the State

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Directorate of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, the leading authority responsible for promoting tourism in the state, announced its ambitious plan to enhance travel and trade opportunities in Maharashtra. Recognizing the region's tremendous potential, Maharashtra Tourism aims to leverage its unique cultural, historical, and natural assets to attract domestic and international visitors while promoting business and trade collaborations within the state. As a part of this initiative, the Directorate of Tourism conducted a domestic conclave in Pune. The event was organized on July 7, 2023, at JW Marriott Hotel and was attended by the prominent names in the tour and travel fraternity in the city. With its diverse landscapes, vibrant cities, and rich heritage, Maharashtra has long been a sought-after destination for travellers and explorers. The state boasts iconic landmarks such as the bustling metropolis of Mumbai, the breathtaking hill stations of Lonavala and Mahabaleshwar, the ancient Ajanta and Ellora caves, and the serene beaches of Alibaug and Tarkarli. By showcasing Maharashtra's immense beauty and cultural richness, the tourism board intends to position the state as a must-visit destination for tourists from across the globe. In line with the vision of Maharashtra's Honorable Chief Minister, the tourism board plans to implement a comprehensive strategy to boost the tourism and trade sectors. This strategy includes the development of new tourism circuits, the enhancement of existing infrastructure, and the promotion of sustainable tourism practices. Additionally, Maharashtra



Tourism aims to collaborate with various stakeholders, including travel agencies, tour operators, and local communities, to create unforgettable experiences for visitors while ensuring the economic growth and empowerment of the region. Recognizing the potential of tourism to drive economic development, the Directorate of Tourism is committed to facilitating investments and business partnerships in the state. The tourism board will actively engage with industry leaders, chambers of commerce, and trade associations to foster trade opportunities across hospitality, travel, food and beverage sectors, and handicrafts. Through targeted initiatives and promotional campaigns, Maharashtra Tourism aims to attract entrepreneurs and investors to explore the state's vast potential and untapped opportunities. Commenting on the announcement, Dr. B. N. Patil, IAS, Director, Directorate of Tourism, said, "Maharashtra is blessed with abundant natural beauty, cultural heritage, and economic potential. We aim to showcase Maharashtra's unique offerings to the world and position it as a leading tourism and trade destination. We are committed to sustainable development and empower-

ing local communities through tourism. We invite travellers, investors, and businesses to experience the magic of Maharashtra and be a part of our incredible journey." Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Tourism, while highlighting the tourism potential of Maharashtra, stated, "The state of Maharashtra is the most sought-after destination for tourists from across the world as the seashores, flora and fauna of mountains, cultural ethnicity, historical chronicles never fail to mesmerize them. I reckon this domestic conclave in the city of Pune will help to explore new avenues to expand the spectrum of Maharashtra Tourism through fruitful trade collaborations, innovative ideas to generate revenues, business and employment opportunities and empower the state." The Directorate of Tourism's ambitious plan to boost travel and trade opportunities aligns with the state government's vision to position Maharashtra as a global hub for tourism and commerce. By leveraging its natural and cultural wealth, the tourism board aims to create a thriving ecosystem that benefits visitors and residents, ultimately contributing to the economic growth and prosperity of the state.

## Vitesco Technologies Presents a Wide Range of Innovative Electrification Solutions for 2-Wheelers in India



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Vitesco Technologies, a leading international supplier of advanced powertrain technologies and solutions for e-mobility, is presenting its innovative electrification solutions for a range of segments in the 2-wheeler market. For the first time, the company will also be publicly showcasing a demo version of its 48-volt system for electric light motorcycles and scooters with 3 to 7 kW output (equivalent up to 150 cc for combustion engines) in India. In addition to the company's two decades of expertise in two-wheel vehicles, in its new developments Vitesco Technologies also benefits from in-house series products in the automotive sector. The company will be showcasing the highly integrated EMR3 (3rd generation of Electronics Motor Reducer) electric axle drive, which has already proven itself in the passenger car market, as a tailored solution for high-performance three- and four-wheelers. Klaus Hau, Executive Board Member and Head of Powertrain Solutions Division and Anurag Garg, Managing Director & Country Head of Vitesco Technologies India, unveiled the Demo scooter at the facility in Talegaon, Pune. "I truly believe that the future is electric, and we are excited to showcase our first 48-volt demo vehicle in India", said Klaus Hau. He continued

by stating that India plays a vital part in the company's global growth strategy. India's automotive industry is currently undergoing what is possibly the most significant transformation in its history. E-mobility is becoming a mainstream phenomenon and our portfolio clearly focuses on global, scalable platforms for electrified vehicles. We are well-positioned due to our experience, electronics expertise, and large product portfolio. We have more than 15 years of experience in the field of electrification. We currently have approximately 80% of the components required in electrified vehicles in our portfolio. Our objective is to achieve outstanding growth in electrification technologies and to expand our business. Anurag Garg, Managing Director & Country Head of Vitesco Technologies India said: "We are excited to present a demo version of our 48-volt system for electric light scooters and bikes in India for the first time to the public. Our aim with this concept was to discover the vision of a new generation of EVs while also establishing standards for other e-mobility projects. Globally, we have been investing in this segment since 2006 and have successfully brought e-innovations to market for well over a decade. We will continue to enhance the efficiency and range of innovative electrification solutions for

2-wheelers and Powersports in India using cutting-edge technologies." **Emission-free motoring: Demo Scooter With a 48-Volt System** The full electric demo scooter was presented in November 2022 for the first time in Milan. Its 48-volt system was designed for smaller two-wheelers, which play a central role in everyday mobility in Asian countries in particular. Vitesco Technologies is already developing the drive system for series production in specific customer projects. **EMR3: High-performance electric drive for the powersports segment:** The EMR3 electric axle drive is a highly integrated, compact and lightweight unit comprising a permanent magnet synchronous motor, power electronics (inverter) and reduction gear (reducer). Vitesco Technologies has been using the third generation of the EMR as standard in numerous passenger car models by European and Asian manufacturers since 2019. This innovative and fully mature technology is also a perfect solution for the electrification of multi-track vehicles in the powersports segment such as ATVs (All-Terrain Vehicles) and SSVs (Side-by-Side Vehicles) or for e-rickshaws. **Pioneering engine control units for future emissions standards** Emissions regulations for internal combustion engines are being tightened worldwide, and the standards that were introduced in the automotive sector are increasingly making their way into the world of two-wheel vehicles. To help manufacturers meet these stringent requirements, Vitesco Technologies offers a wide range of highly efficient, pioneering engine control units. Vitesco Technologies will continuously adapt the engine controls to future requirements and also develop the next generation of products.

## Indian Immunologicals administers 1 Lac FREE dosages of Anti-rabies vaccine on World Zoonosis Day 2023



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), one of India's leading biotechnology companies dedicated to manufacturing and supplying life-saving vaccines, commemorated World Zoonoses Day on July 6th, 2023. This significant occasion highlights the urgent need for global attention and collaborative efforts to combat zoonotic diseases and safeguard public health. On World Zoonoses Day, Indian Immunologicals Limited has organized "Free Anti-rabies Vaccination Camps" across India. One Lakh doses of Anti-rabies vaccine were administered free of cost with leading brands- Raksarab and Starvac R in as many as 100 cities across the country through veterinary dispensaries, veterinary colleges and NGOs. Zoonoses is infectious diseases

transmitted between animals and humans, pose a persistent threat to global health security. As the world faces the challenges of emerging zoonotic outbreaks, IIL reiterates its unwavering commitment to protecting human lives through preventive measures, research, and vaccine development. Over the years, IIL has emerged as a frontrunner in vaccine production, consistently contributing to disease prevention and control. Through relentless dedication to research and innovation, IIL has developed and manufactured vaccines for various zoonotic diseases such as rabies, brucellosis etc. These vaccines have played a crucial role in preventing the spread of these diseases, safeguarding countless lives in India and beyond.

## REHAU Volunteers Transform Astitva Pratishthan School in PUNE through CSR Initiative



**Pune (Voice news service):-** REHAU, a leading polymer solutions provider, demonstrated its commitment to social responsibility by partnering with Astitva Pratishthan, an NGO dedicated to the development of underprivileged children, in a transformative initiative. On June 17, 2023, several employees from REHAU have volunteered their time and skills to renovate and revitalize two classrooms at Astitva Pratishthan's primary section in Saswad, a village located to the South-East of Pune city. Astitva Pratishthan focuses on providing holistic education and support to underprivileged children who are often the first-generation learners in their families. Most of these children come from impoverished backgrounds, with many being orphaned. In line with its mission, the NGO offers education, food, shelter, medical care, and physical training to give these children a better start in life. Following the revitalizing painting session, a heartwarming

lunch was shared between the volunteers and the children, providing an opportunity for genuine interaction and bonding. Energized by the nourishing meal, the artists continued with the more intricate aspect of the project. One wall was adorned with a vibrant depiction of the Solar System, while the children eagerly participated in creating a People Tree on another wall, symbolizing unity and growth. REHAU's CSR initiative at Astitva Pratishthan exemplified the transformative power of collaboration and compassion. "The developing power of education and compassion knows no bounds. Through our partnership with Astitva Pratishthan, REHAU reaffirms its commitment to empowering underprivileged children by providing them with a nurturing environment for holistic development. Together, we strive to unlock the infinite potential within every child, paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive future," said Ms. Bhavana Bindra, Managing Director, REHAU, South Asia expressing her gratitude for the efforts.

## Indians report rise in stress levels post pandemic: New Saridon Headache Report

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Saridon, the No. 1 headache relief brand from Bayer's Consumer Health Division in India has released the second edition of its national headache survey. This comprehensive report delves into the growing prevalence of stress among individuals in a post-pandemic era, exploring its correlation with headache across diverse geographies and demographics. The comprehensive report, commissioned by HANSA Research, a globally recognized full-service market research company, delved into a wide range of cohorts, including gender, working class, age, and demography, to provide a holistic understanding of the stress levels faced by individuals aged 22-45 in India. This extensive study encompassed 5,310 respondents from 20 urban cities, including key tier 1 and tier 2 towns across 15 states, unveiling captivating consumer insights. According to the report, an astounding 93% of respondents who experienced headaches witnessed a noticeable increase, directly linked to elevated stress levels. The report revealed that 1 in 3 people felt that their stress levels had increased post pandemic. Financial problems and work pressure were indicated as major stressors for both working and non-working populations. Among other causes, health issues and family conflicts were prominent stressors. The findings highlight the need for effective stress management strategies in a post-pandemic world.

report underscores the significant relationship between stress and headaches, particularly in a post-pandemic era where consumers have now started to focus on self-care as a vital aspect of their well-being. With a legacy of over 50 years, Saridon has earned the trust of Indian consumers, establishing itself as a household name. This report lays emphasis on the connection between stress and headache as it also reveals the changing healthcare needs of the consumers. Bayer continues to stay committed to developing advanced healthcare solutions for addressing everyday needs by evolving our brands and introducing solutions like our best ever - New Saridon. Among the tier 1 towns, Mumbai is the only city with over 90% incidence of headache while Chennai follows closely at 89%; among tier 2 towns, 99% in Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar claimed that they experienced headache, followed by Madurai (96%) and Indore (94%). The report also reveals a positive trend wherein 80% of respondents now engage in open discussions about their headaches with family, friends, and colleagues. Compared to \*2021 study, there has been a notable increase of 3% in the number of individuals (89%) who take action within a few minutes or hours to relieve their headaches, as opposed to waiting until the end of the day (86% in \*2021). The results also unveiled a concerning trend, with nearly 40% of participants indicating challenges in sustaining optimal concentration on their tasks—a significant increase of 7% compared to the findings of the \*2021 study. Nearly 50% highlighted the reduction of workload, both professional responsibilities and household chores, as the primary remedy to address this concern.

## Pune registers 22% YoY rise in residential launches; Office rentals rise by 2% in H1 2023: Knight Frank India

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Knight Frank India in its latest report, India Real Estate: H1 2023 (January to June 2023) cited that new home launches in Pune increased by 22% YoY to 21,234 units in H1 2023. Out of all the markets, Pune stood out as the sole market to achieve substantial double-digit growth in project launches during this period. The city's emergence as a thriving IT and ITes hub, coupled with the government's emphasis on infrastructure development, has positioned Pune as a crucial destination for housing. Residential sales remained stable with total sales of 21,670 units, experiencing a slight decline of 0.6% year-on-year. Despite facing various challenges, the market demonstrated resilience. Properties with ticket size exceeding INR 10 million saw a rise in share, increasing from 9% in H1 2022 to 12% in H1 2023. This indicates a growing demand for high-value properties in the market during the given period. Sale of properties with ticket sizes

ranging from INR 5 - 10 mn also experienced an increase in share, rising from 41% in H1 2022 to 46% in H1 2023. While sales of properties with ticket sizes below INR 5 mn witnessed a decline in share, decreasing from 50% in H1 2022 to 42% in H1 2023. This shift in share can be attributed to an overall increase in the value mix and prices of properties. The city's residential market witnessed a notable shift in the share of new project launches across different zones in Pune. The Central, Western, and Northern Zones experienced significant increases, accounting for 20%, 26%, and 10% of the total launches, respectively. On the other hand, the share contribution of the South and East Zones contracted, comprising 20% and 24% of the total launches, respectively. The quarter-to-sell (QTS) metric, which measures the time taken to sell a property, decreased from 4.9 quarters in H1 2022 to 4.3 quarters in H1 2023. This decrease signifies the strength of market

demand. From the aspect of the micro-market split, the sales volumes were predominantly concentrated in the South, East, and West markets, accounting for significant shares. The South market held the largest share with 31% contribution to the total sales volume, followed by the East market with 23%, and the West market with 28%. These regions emerged as the key areas where substantial residential property transactions took place, indicating high demand and market activity in those zones. Vilas P Menon, National Director Occupier Services, and Branch Head - Pune, Knight Frank India said, "Pune's residential market witnessed a growing trend of returning to office-based work, residential properties located near key employment hubs such as Hinjewadi and Baner in the West Zone are anticipated to experience a surge in sales momentum. These areas, known for their proximity to major workplaces, are expected to attract homebuyers seeking

convenient access to their workplaces, leading to increased demand and sales activity. The city's emergence as a thriving IT and ITes hub, coupled with the government's emphasis on infrastructure development, has positioned Pune as a crucial destination for housing." **Pune office space update: H1 2023 (January - June 2023)** In terms of office market performance, Pune witnessed a 3% increase in rental value while transactions in Pune amounted to 1.5 million square feet, with micro markets such as Secondary Business District (SBD) East, Secondary Business District (SBD) West, and Peripheral Business District (PBD) West driving demand and accounting for 85% of the transactions in H1 2023. Despite the temporary setback, Pune remains a major hub for IT and ITes (IT-enabled Services) companies, and there is a strong pipeline of new office projects. As global economy continues to recover, the demand for office space in Pune is expected to increase.

## Prime Minister's visit to US has laid foundation for a new chapter in India-US bilateral relationship: FICCI

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Commenting on the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the US, FICCI President, Mr. Subhrakant Panda said, "Our Prime Minister's visit to the United States has been very successful with several substantial outcomes relating to defence acquisitions which will enhance national security, access to critical technology, potential investment in semiconductors, Artemis Accord for space cooperation and settlement of the pending trade disputes. The cooperation between the US Small Business Administration and India's MSME Ministry will also be very beneficial for Indian

entrepreneurs. This is the start of a new era in US-India relationship where there is mutual trust and convergence of views on strategic issues. This will benefit not just the two nations but the world at large." Mr. Shailesh K Pathak, Secretary General, FICCI said, "The visit of the Prime Minister to the US is a successful visit especially from the business perspective. FICCI is delighted with some specific achievements out of the visit. Under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), we already have agreements on defence, space, and semiconductors. Now that government has paved the way,

the private sector will rise and partner with American and Indian companies. The movement of professionals, renewal of H1B visa and increase in visa offices will help the tech industry. We have managed to settle the WTO disputes bilaterally which is a healthy sign." Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Chair, FICCI Maharashtra State Council said that "FICCI hails India-USA joint statement which amongst other important areas emphasized the need for decarbonizing the transportation sector, including accelerating the deployment of zero-emissions vehicles, continued collaboration to promote public and private

financing for electric transportation, and the development of biofuels, including sustainable aviation fuels. Being a leader in the EV space, she further added that, It is also encouraging for the EV industry to see that the United States and India Plan to create a Payment security mechanism that will facilitate the deployment of 10,000 Made-in-India electric buses in India. This is Indeed a historic agreement for the Indian EV industry that would not only catalyse India's efforts in reducing greenhouse emissions but also help to promote local manufacturing base for EV."

## Suryadatta Group of Institutes organized blood donation camp on National Doctors' Day

**Pune (Voice news service):-** On the occasion of National Doctor's Day, a grand blood donation camp was organized by Suryadatta Institute of Health Sciences run by Suryadatta Education Foundation. Total 60 people donated blood in a camp organized at Sury-

adatta Group Institutes in Bavdhan. Students of Physiotherapy, MBA, MCA and other departments along with teaching and non-teaching staff of Suryadatta participated in it. This camp was organized by Suryadatta Group under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Sanjay

B. Chordia, Founder President of Suryadatta & Sushma Chordia, Vice President of Suryadatta. Dr. Seemi Rethrekar, Principal of Suryadatta College of Physiotherapy, Dr. Shrikant Dhase, Dr. Anjali Sharma, Dr. Rucha Vaidya, Dr. Madhurika Kate, Dr. Ishani Gopiani and others were

present. Dr. Seemi Rethrekar appreciated all the doctors and health care providers. He extolled the important role played by doctors in people's lives. She mentioned that all doctors and healthcare providers are serving the society and should be proud to belong to the great service sector of the world.

## Infinix's trendy and terrific Hot 30 5G smartphone

**The smartphone is anticipated to offer remarkable features, including seamless all-day 5G connectivity, a fluid display and a massive battery** **Pune (Voice news service):-** Infinix is set to build upon the incredible success of its renowned Hot series by introducing Hot 30 5G. To be priced between 10-15K, Infinix Hot 30 5G is expected to boast premium design feel with its vibrant colour variants such as Aurora Blue and Knight Black. Users can also anticipate the inclusion of a 6000 mAh battery in the device, 580 NITS brightness and splash proof IP53 rating for a better productivity and smooth experience. These features will definitely make it a #breakthrough device of the year.





**Amazon Music launches new Playlists, Podcasts & Artists videos exclusively for Prime members this Prime Day**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Amazon Music is set to captivate music lovers this Prime Day with the launch of three new playlists, exclusive artist videos and podcasts. Celebrating diverse musical genres, Amazon Music introduces the playlists Rap Flow, Top Tucker, and Aaho! that embodies diverse flavors of Indian music and caters to the varied preferences of customers across the nation and worldwide. These new playlists include top trending & chart-topping songs that offer an unparalleled listening experience. Rap Flow, the flagship Indian Hip-Hop playlist, pays homage to the country's most beloved Rap and Hip-Hop artists. This meticulously curated collection showcases trending releases, rap tracks and highlights the talent of some of the most loved artists such as King, Srushti Tawade, Raftaar, Brodha V, MC Stan and many more. Top Tucker, its first-ever Tamil Global Playlist. This exclusive playlist serves as a musical destination for exploring the local to global genres of Tamil music, featuring the chart-busters and trending hits of all time. Renowned composers A. R. Rahman, Anirudh Ravichander, blockbuster star Sivakarthikeyan and many other iconic figures will be the face of this captivating playlist. Punjabi music aficionados can indulge in Aaho! the Punjabi playlist, which offers an exquisite curation of new and popular Punjabi music, including acclaimed artists like Har-ardy Sandhu, Sunanda Shar-

ma, AP Dhillon, Diljit Dosanjh, and Shubh. This Prime Day, Amazon Music also premieres the award-winning series The Walk In, started by Amazon Music US where fans get an in-depth and exclusive tour of their favorite artists iconic wardrobes and has featured the likes of Katy Perry, Meghan Trainor, Lil Nas and more. The India version of this Webby-nominated series is hosted by the iconic style icon Sushant Divgikar a.k.a Rani Ko-HE-Nur featuring artists like King, Har-ardy Sandhu & Sunanda Sharma. The show will premiere on the Amazon Music app exclusively for Prime members giving them a never-seen-before sneak peek into the wardrobes as well as the musical journeys of these fan favourite artists. Also launching a special hip-hop content series called Line by Line where Indian Hip-Hop artists talk about their most famous/ viral song lyrics. This series by Amazon Music begins with one of the most promising and trending artists of Indian Hip Hop, Srushti Tawade. Podcasts listeners will also enjoy a 2-week exclusive access to explore a collection of podcasts from producer Pratilipi, including popular shows Leela, Road No 12, Hypnosis, Pyaar Ya Takraar and many more, covering a variety of genres like romance, thriller, and horror. "We are delighted to unveil these captivating playlists, artist videos & podcasts as part of our Prime Day celebration. At Amazon Music, our

mission is to curate extraordinary experiences for our listeners, enabling them to explore and connect with their beloved songs and artists. Committed to delivering an unmatched streaming experience, Amazon Music caters to delight audio fans across genres and languages", said Mamta Saraf, Director Amazon Music India. Amazon Music has also enhanced the user experience for Android customers. The app is now available in more than 9 languages, including Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, and English. With this expanded language support, users can effortlessly navigate the app in their preferred language, making it more accessible and personalized. Amazon Prime Music continues to redefine the music streaming experience, offering a vast library of over 100 million songs, over 15million Podcasts episodes, across 20 languages, all available on-demand, ad-free with unlimited downloads. Amazon Music is also offering Rs 150 cashback on Amazon.in to Prime members who stream their first music or podcast on the Amazon Music App and shop during Prime Day \* T&C Apply. This Prime Day discover joy with Amazon Music and create unforgettable audio experiences all included with your Amazon Prime membership yearly fee of Rs. 1499. To access the vibrant world of music, new playlists and podcasts, visit [www.amazon.in/music/prime](http://www.amazon.in/music/prime) and unlock a



world of limitless entertainment. Artist Quotes: "I'm delighted to be featured in on Rap Flow, a thrilling playlist that celebrates the dynamic artistry of Indian Hip-Hop. It's truly exciting to be a part of a platform that recognizes and embraces the essence of Indian rap and hip-hop music. Being among some of the industry's finest artists is a pleasure. Rap Flow revolutionizes the Indian rap scene by offering a space to discover trending releases and connect with this thriving genre. I'm grateful to the platform for amplifying our voices and contributing to this exciting time for Indian rap.", said rapper King. "As an artist, I'm thrilled to be part of Aaho!, the Global Punjabi playlist. It's a pleasure to have my songs featured alongside talented Punjabi artists, and I'm excited for listeners to groove to our beats and melodies. Punjabi music carries a captivating energy and charm that resonates globally. Aaho! captures the essence of this genre, taking listeners on a musical journey through the vibrant flavors of Punjab. Come join me on this musical adventure and let's dance to the beats of Punjab", expressed singer Har-ardy Sandhu.

**PRO KABADDI LEAGUE ANNOUNCES SEASON 10 PLAYER AUCTION DATES – 8TH- 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Mashal Sports, organizers of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL), announces that the landmark Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 Player Auction will be held from 8 - 9 September 2023 in Mumbai. The total Salary Purse available to each franchise for its squad has increased from INR 4.4 crore to INR 5 crore after three seasons. The Domestic and Overseas players will be divided into four categories: Category A, B, C and D. The players will be further sub-divided as 'All-Rounders', 'Defenders' and 'Raiders' within each category. The base prices for

each of the categories are Category A - INR 30 Lakh, Category B - INR 20 Lakh, Category C - INR 13 Lakh, Category D - INR 9 Lakh. The Season 10 Player Pool will consist of 500+ including the 24 players from the two finalist teams of the Khelo India University Games 2023. Mr. Anupam Goswami, Head Sports Leagues, Mashal Sports and League Commissioner, Pro Kabaddi League said, "The tenth Season is obviously such a major milestone for any contemporary sports league in India. The PKL Season X Player Auction too will be a landmark in PKL's history. Along with the retentions and

nominations under the Season X Player Policy, our 12 franchises will use the Player Auction to select the world's best kabaddi athletes for their Teams". The PKL teams also have a choice of retaining players from their respective PKL Season 9 squads as per the league policies. The franchises are allowed to retain up to 6 players under the Elite Retained Players classification under stipulated conditions in each PKL season. The players, who are not retained by the franchises and from the pool of 500+ players, will go under the hammer during the two-day auction process in Mumbai.

Mashal Sports and Disney Star, under the aegis and sanction from the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI), have built PKL into one of the most successful sports leagues in India. The competition consists of the largest number of matches among all sports leagues in India. The Pro Kabaddi League has transformed the image of India's indigenous sport of Kabaddi and its athletes nationally as well as across the globe. After witnessing the participation of many of their players in PKL, several Kabaddi-playing nations have also strengthened their domestic Kabaddi programs.

**Yuga Sports and Entertainment Announces Pro Roll Ball - India's Fastest League**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Yuga Sports and Entertainment, a leading sports and entertainment company, is thrilled to announce the logo and unveil exciting details of Pro Roll Ball, India's fastest league. The company has acquired the intellectual property rights from the Asian Roll Ball Federation, marking a significant milestone in the development of this exhilarating sport. Pro Roll Ball is set to be the first-ever international league for the game of Roll Ball, exclusively for men. With an 18-day action-packed schedule, the league promises to captivate audiences across the nation. The inaugural season will feature eight dynamic teams representing major cities in India, including Pune, Mumbai, Goa, Kerala, Bangalore, Gujarat, Delhi, and Chennai.



Invented by Raju Dabhade in Pune and played in over 60 countries, the indigenous sport of Roll Ball is a dynamic and exhilarating sport which combines the skills of roller skating and handball. Played by two teams, the game involves players dribbling, passing, and shooting the ball into the opponent's goal post while on roller skates. It is a fast-paced, action-packed game that tests both athleticism and strategy. During the press conference, notable attendees included Mr. Siddharth Mehta, Founder and CEO of Yuga Sports and Entertainment a Pro Roll Ball, Mr. Chetan Bhandwalkar, General Secretary of the Roll Ball Federation of India, Mr. Anand Yadav, General Secretary of the Asian Roll Ball Federation, Mr. Rajmohan Pillai, President of the Kerala Roll Ball Association and Owner of the Kerala Team, Chairman, Beta Group and Mr. Raju Dabhade, Founder of Roll Ball. These distinguished individuals came together to announce the logo and share exciting details about Pro Roll Ball - India's Fastest League. Their presence reflects their commitment to the growth and development of the sport, as well as their enthusiasm for the upcoming league.

Each team will consist of ten talented players, with three international players being a mandatory inclusion. The player selection process will be conducted through an exciting auction, where teams will bid for their preferred athletes. The base player price has been set at INR 1.5 Lakhs, ensuring a fair and competitive environment for all participants. Speaking on the launch, Mr Siddharth Mehta, Founder and CEO of Yuga Sports and Entertainment, Pro Roll Ball said, "I am thrilled to introduce Pro Roll Ball, India's fastest league, and embark on this exciting journey of revolutionizing the sport. With our 5 year partnership with the Asian Roll Ball Federation and a lineup of top-tier teams and players, we are set to redefine the game and offer an unparalleled experience to fans across the nation and the world. Pro Roll Ball is not just a league; it's a celebration of athleticism, innovation, and environmental consciousness. We look forward to witnessing the electrifying matches and the positive impact we will make together." "Furthermore, we think that Pro Roll Ball has the potential to become one of the top three leagues to be played in the country. Our unwavering commitment to excellence, combined with the passion and talent of the participating teams, will elevate the stature of the league to new heights. Pro Roll Ball will showcase the pinnacle of skill, strategy, and sportsmanship, captivating fans and creating an unforgettable experience that will leave an indelible mark on the sporting landscape of India." added Mr. Siddharth Mehta. In an effort to promote environmental sustainability, Pro Roll Ball has pledged to plant 1000 trees for every goal scored during the league. By incorporating this unique initiative, the league aims to make a positive impact on the environment and raise awareness about the importance of conservation. Pro Roll Ball will be broadcast live on television and various OTT platforms, allowing fans to immerse themselves in the thrilling matches from the comfort of their homes. The league has also implemented rule changes to make the game faster, more aggressive, and visually captivating, enhancing the overall spectator experience. "We are incredibly excited to introduce Pro Roll Ball, the first-ever national league dedicated to this exhilarating sport," said Mr. Chetan Bhandwalkar, Secretary RBFI. "Our goal is to showcase the immense talent and athleticism of Roll Ball players while providing an enthralling experience for fans across the country." Pro Roll Ball has garnered significant attention due to its innovative game format. Each team

will comprise ten players, with three international players adding an element of diversity and competition. The proposed game format will follow an all-play-all structure, ensuring that every team faces each other. Matches are anticipated to last 45 minutes each, with a break in between, resulting in two thrilling games daily. The player auction process will be divided into three categories: A, B, and International Players. Category A will include players who have represented India in any international tournament within the last five years or have participated in three consecutive national tournaments during the same period. Category B will consist of players who have participated in three consecutive national tournaments within the last five years or have attended any India team qualifying camp. The base prices for both categories are set at INR 1.5 Lakhs and INR 1 Lakh, respectively. Additionally, each team will have three international players, each having represented their respective countries in any international tournament within the last five years. Pro Roll Ball's proposed schedule includes several engaging events leading up to the inaugural season. These include franchisee declaration and player auction in July, followed by the launch of the league's official anthem in July. August will see the unveiling of team jerseys and the exciting involvement of celebrities associated with each team. In October, camps will be conducted to train referees and the crew, ensuring seamless execution during the matches. Finally, in November, the highly anticipated Season 1 of Pro Roll Ball, featuring 18 days of intense competition, will commence. Pro Roll Ball has also forged a 5-year partnership between the Asian Roll Ball Federation and Yuga Sports and Entertainment, further solidifying their commitment to the growth and development of this exhilarating sport in the country.

**Sonu Nigam Wins Three Awards For Hanuman Chalisa Song At The Clef Music Awards 2023**



**Pune (Voice news service):-** The Clef Music Awards 2023, organised by Radioandmusic.com and Indiantelevisions.com celebrated and honoured the best talents from the music industry. The awards, now in its third edition, recognised independent musicians from various regional languages and international entries. Prestigious guests who attended the event were Sid-dhant Bhosale, Sudesh Bhosale, Sonu Nigam, L Subramaniam, Suchitra Krishnamoorthi, Gaurav Chananra, Shamir Tandon, Sanjay Tandon, Rumpa Banerjee, RS Mani, Sunny Subramanian, Sheldon D'Silva, Sherrin Varghese, among others. Among the winners, renowned singer Sonu Nigam stood out, winning three awards for his remarkable rendition of the song Hanuman Chalisa. Sonu Nigam, known for his mesmerising voice and versatile singing style, received accolades in the categories of Best Devotional Song, Best Male Vocalist and Best Music Video for his song Hanuman

Chalisa. Overwhelmed, Nigam commented emotionally, "A lot of people don't know that I began my career as an independent artist. I have a very soft corner for The Clef Music Awards because it stands for and celebrates independent artists. I am very glad that my devotional album Hanuman Chalisa has won three awards." Sonu Nigam's rendition of the sacred Hanuman Chalisa touched the hearts of millions of listeners with its soulful melody and spiritual essence. His impeccable vocals and deep devotion created an emotional connection with the audience, making it a stand-out song of the year. The highly anticipated music event commenced with registrations. Following that, Namita took the stage to introduce the awards, present sponsor AVs, and perform the traditional Lamp Lighting ceremony. The audience was then treated to a special address by Anil NM Wanvari. The energy of the event soared as Raahul Jatin

took the stage and delivered a captivating performance. The evening continued with a thought-provoking panel discussion, featuring esteemed panellists Hina Shaikh, Chaitanya Chinchlikar, Gaurav Dagaonkar, Siddhartha Roy, Jay Mehta, Puneet Bekal, and Nishant Gupta. This was followed by an engaging fireside chat between Anil Wanvari and Tulsi Kumar. After a short break, the event resumed with an electrifying band performance. The host then took the stage to introduce the awards, present sponsor AVs, and felicitate the esteemed jury members. The excitement reached its peak as Rahul Balyan, the India Head at Spotify, delivered a keynote address. Finally, the much-anticipated awards ceremony commenced. The event featured an impressive lineup of panellists, each bringing their expertise and insights to the discussions. Hina Shaikh, Senior General Manager and Head of Content and Alliances at Horus Music provided valuable insights into the music industry's content landscape. Chaitanya Chinchlikar, VP & Business Head, Chief Technology Officer, and Head of Emerging Media at Whistling Woods, shared his expertise on the intersection of technology and media. Gaurav Dagaonkar, Co-Founder, and CEO at Hoopr.ai, brought his entrepreneurial perspective to the panel. Siddhartha Roy, COO at Hungama Digital Media,

offered his extensive knowledge of the digital media landscape. Jay Mehta, Managing Director at Warner Music Group, shared his insights into the music industry's global perspective. Puneet Bekal, Head of Marketing at MasterCard, contributed his expertise in marketing strategies. Nishant Gupta, Co-Founder of GoBindaas, brought his valuable insights into the independent music scene. With such an esteemed lineup of panellists and a diverse range of events, the evening promised to be a memorable celebration of music, talent, and industry expertise. The Clef Music Awards, with over 70 categories, aim to provide a platform for independent musicians to showcase their talent and recognise their contributions to the music industry. This year, the awards received entries from various regional languages, including Marathi, Tamil, Bangla, Bhojpuri, Assamese, Marwari, Punjabi, and Tamil, as well as international entries from countries like Russia, Ukraine, the US, and the UK. The Clef Music Awards 2023 showcased the rise of the independent music scene and explored topics such as artist services, emerging platforms, and the future of independent music. Esteemed industry experts, including Vivek Raina, Sanjay Tandon, and Chaitanya Chinchlikar, participated in insightful discussions during the event.

**"Founder's Ride" commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr Brijmohan Lall Munjal**



**Pune:** Dr Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp, led the "Founder's Ride" commemorating the 100th birth anniversary of his father, Padma Bhushan Dr Brijmohan Lall Munjal. A first generation entrepreneur, Dr Lall, with his grit and perseverance created one of the country's largest conglomerates, Hero Group and the world's larg-

est manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, Hero MotoCorp. 100 riders rode for 100 km as a tribute to the 100 years of his legacy. Hero MotoCorp is also organising various company wide activities in this centennial year, that imbibe the values of Dr Lall, such as blood donation drives across plant locations, corporate & zonal offices and community initiatives.

**Genelia Deshmukh and Manav Kaul-starrer 'Trial Period' on JioCinema embraces a heartwarming tale of unconventional relationships!**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** JioCinema is all set to showcase an endearing tale of unconventional family bond with its upcoming film, Trial Period, which will premiere on 21 st July. Written and directed by Aleya Sen, the film boasts of a stellar cast of Genelia Deshmukh, Manav Kaul, in the lead, with Shakti Kapoor, Sheeba Chadda, Gajraj Rao and Zidane Braz in significant roles. Trial Period showcases an emotional rollercoaster as it unravels the love and complexities of modern imperfect families. The film follows the journey of a single mother Ana, played by Genelia Deshmukh, whose world turns upside down when her inquisitive son demands a father on a trial period of 30 days! The innocent coercion leads to the arrival of a disciplined

Prajapati Dwivedi from Ujjain, fondly known as PD, played by Manav Kaul - who is in complete contradiction to the expectations of the mother and the son. What follows is an adorable tale of love and friendship, as they navigate through the challenges of an unconventional family dynamic, personality clashes, blossoming into unexpected bonds. Produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Presented by Jio Studios, a Chrome Pictures production, produced by Hemant Bhandari, Amit Ravindernath Sharma, and Aleya Sen, Trial Period assures to be a perfect family entertainer. Genelia Deshmukh shares her thoughts about the film, "I'm at the stage in my career, where I choose a film which is about quality more than just quantity. Trial Period

when offered to me by director Aleya Sen and Chrome was about a mother and the various relationships a woman goes through at that phase, it's about a single woman mother finding her love story which is different from college love stories, and this is exactly what excited me to do the role. I'm excited for the film's premiere on Jio Cinema which has a larger audience and the audience that is appropriate for the film. The Trial Period family has made this film with so much love and we hope our sincere efforts resonate with the audience. Manav Kaul also commented, Trial Period is all things special! So heartfelt in its treatment, the film is an emotional rollercoaster. Moreover, working alongside such incredibly talented actors and the Chrome Pictures team has

been a rewarding journey for me. All of us were personally invested in the film, and every character in it will leave you with a different point of view, therein lies the beauty of Aleya Sen's capabilities as a director. My mother even penned an emotional note after I completed the film, which was truly overwhelming.



**Star Sports acquires television broadcast rights of Lanka Premier League 2023 for India, subcontinent & MENA Region**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Star Sports, the country's leading sports network, will have the exclusive television media rights for the upcoming Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2023, scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka from July 30 to August 21. Having bagged the television broadcast rights, Star Sports will telecast the league's exciting action live, exclusively in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, and MENA region including UAE. "We are delighted to announce Star Sports as the official television broadcaster for the fourth edition of the Lanka Premier League 2023. Since the inception of the LPL, it has not only showcased an exciting brand of cricket but also provided a platform for

Sri Lankan cricket to steadily churn out talented cricketers. With committed stakeholders like Star Sports, we are very excited to bring the global cricketing audience an opportunity to not only witness an extremely competitive and captivating brand of T20 cricket but also dish out unmatched non-live cricketing content for fans across India, Sri Lanka, the subcontinent and MENA region," commented Anil Mohan Sankhdhar, Founder and CEO of IPG Group—the official rights holder of LPL. "I am highly confident that the Lanka Premier League 2023 is going to reach new heights in terms of competitiveness among fans, thus elevating the tournament to a new level; hence, hav-

ing a renowned Broadcaster like Star Sports take the tournament to the doorstep of a wider audience is highly welcome," said Mr. Samantha Dodanwala, Tournament Director, Lanka Premier League 2023. The Star Sports network is home to some of the top international and domestic sports properties including the ICC, Indian Premier League, Cricket Australia, Indian Super League, Premier League, and Wimbledon among many other premier sports properties, and the addition of LPL will surely bolster the cricketing roster of the network even more. "We welcome this exciting association with LPL. The league has witnessed thrilling action and a great fan base across the subcontinent and MENA region. With

this association, the upcoming season will be able to reach a wider audience. We look forward to a great collaboration and a memorable experience for the fans," said a Star Sports Spokesperson. The upcoming season will witness the presence of popular international stars such as Babar Azam, Shakib Al Hasan, David Miller as well as popular Sri Lankan stars Thisara Perera and Wanidu Hasaranga, Angelo Mathews and Skipper Dasun Shanaka among others as the matches will be held across two venues—Colombo and Kandy, for the fourth season. "We welcome this exciting association with LPL. The league has witnessed thrilling action and a great fan base across the subcontinent and MENA region. With



## ADP India leads community action, hosts a month-long community development drive



**Pune (Voice news service):-** ADP India, a leading provider of Human Resources Management Software & Services, has successfully deployed a Global CSR initiative called The Month of Caring, consisting of a series of impactful social initiatives. ADP India continues to collaborate with a wide range of eco-social projects, establishing community development as a foundational value in their business. ADP India kicked off this program with grocery donations drive, wherein associates across Pune and Hyderabad collectively contributed groceries amounting to INR 13.5 Lakh+. ADP organized a blood donation drive and over 530 ADP associates donated blood, as well as supported

NGOs to set up handicraft stalls for jute bags, handloom products and more with sales worth over INR 1 Lakh. Recognizing the challenges faced by daily-wage workers and children during the summer and the numerous heat waves, ADP also organized buttermilk distribution drives, ensuring that over 1000 individuals received refreshing beverages. Furthermore, a Wish Tree initiative was undertaken, wherein more than 650 wishes of children from NGOs supported by ADP were fulfilled. Further emphasizing its commitment to youth and women empowerment, ADP conducted volunteer sessions for over 200 individuals across various community development centers and Youth Development Centers.



ADP also organized a magical evening for 200 children residing in various children's shelter homes, bringing joy, laughter, and a sense of wonder to the young hearts. In addition, ADP distributed over 1000 items of clothing and 50+ school kits to individuals from underprivileged background, the elderly, people affected by HIV, and orphans. The contributions made during this month-long activity will be utilized to support more than 5000 beneficiaries from ADP supported NGOs and others across Pune and Hyderabad! Mr. Vijay Venulapalli, General Manager and Managing Director, ADP Pvt. Ltd. said, "As a responsible corporate, it is our common endeavor to leave a positive impact on the society. Collective,

community development is the ultimate goal of Tarang, our Social Responsibility program. The chain of activities undertaken recently, has positively impacted over 5000 members of the community. Through similar initiatives, we will continue to demonstrate our unwavering support for community development and social welfare." This Month of Caring initiative was aimed at alleviating the struggles faced by vulnerable communities and provide them with essentials during these challenging times. Social Responsibility is one of the core values of ADP, and the generosity shown by its associates for initiatives like Month of Caring is a testimony to the fact that those values are now embedded in each of them!

## Dr. Bhagyashree P. Patil Honored with Rotary International Vocational Excellence Award for Remarkable Contribution to Society

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Dr. Bhagyashree P. Patil, the esteemed Pro-Chancellor of D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, (Deemed to be University), Pimpri, Pune and the Founder CMD of Rise N Shine Biotech Pvt Ltd, has been recognized with the Rotary International Vocational Excellence Award. This prestigious accolade, presented by Rotary District 3131, acknowledges her exceptional contribution to society. Dr. Bhagyashree Patil's tireless efforts in the fields of Education, Health and Women Empowerment have positively impacted countless lives so far. As the Institute's Pro-Chancellor, her unwavering dedication to advancing education and driving academic excellence has transformed the University into a renowned center of knowledge, empowering students and shaping

their futures. Furthermore, her initiatives in promoting research, innovation, and holistic learning and development have set new standards in the field of education. Through her visionary leadership, she started Rise N Shine Biotech Pvt Ltd in 2003 – a pioneer in Plant Biotechnology in India. Today, it provides livelihood to 1000 rural women in Theur & 10 to 12 nearby villages. With a strong focus towards creating a healthier nation, under her able leadership, the DPU Superspecialty Hospital, Pimpri, Pune started the Organ Transplant department, which has developed into a Centre of Excellence today. With a strong focus on enabling a healthier tomorrow, Dr. Bhagyashree Patil envisioned a unique mother-and-child-centric program called Yashoda – Advanced Milk

Bank, Comprehensive Lactation Management and Training & Research Centre – that focuses on providing safe and healthy donor human milk for premature babies and those with weakened immune systems. This program is the first-of-its-kind program to be launched in Pune's PCMC area. Expressing her gratitude, Dr. Bhagyashree Patil said, "I am honoured to accept the prestigious 'Rotary International Vocational Excellence Award.' I am humbled and deeply touched. I am indeed in gratitude towards the Supreme Power for giving me the opportunity to serve mankind and make a difference to the lives of people." "My heartfelt thanks to Rotarian Manjoo Phadke – District Governor 2023-24 RID 3131, PDG Raju Subramanian – RI Director 2023-25 and the team members



of Rotary Club for recognizing and appreciating my work with this award", she concluded. The Rotary International Vocational Excellence Award is a well-deserved recognition of Dr. Bhagyashree Patil's remarkable achievements. It serves as a testament to her outstanding commitment to vocational services and societal betterment.

## An exhibition of Millets, tribal folk culture, and nature-loving items on the anniversary of Vanarai

**Pune:** Due to increasing urbanization, industrialization, and changing lifestyles, we are moving away from nature. Curiosity about the tribal culture living near nature has not diminished even today. Many are attracted by their dress, jewelry, handicrafts, food culture, festivals, and customs, while their way of life attracts some, by the crafts they know. Therefore, considering the need to practice an environment-friendly lifestyle, Vanarai Sanstha has organized a special exhibition on the occasion of its 37th anniversary this year. Also in this exhibition, on the occasion of the International Year of Millets 2023, mainly various coarse grains (millets), tribal folk culture, and nature-friendly items will be seen in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be held on Monday, July 10, 2023, at Mitra Mandal Chowk in the Parvati area in Vanarai premises from 11 am to 9 pm. This exhibition is free of cost and the citizens should take advantage of it and increase their love by attending the love gathering, Vanarai President Ravindra Dharia has appealed.

In the morning session, students from various schools and colleges will visit and in the afternoon session after 4 p.m., dignitaries from various fields including Pune will visit the exhibition. Environmental experts will discuss the experiences of environment-friendly lifestyles, different alternatives to non-toxic things, etc. on this occasion.

## Enchanting, Exquisite, and Unforgettable Ikigai Exhibitions 2023 Is Here!

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Ikigai Exhibitions is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its highly anticipated event, Ikigai Exhibitions 2023. Specially curated by Ms Smita Patwardhan, this vibrant exhibition promises an extraordinary experience for fashion aficionados, showcasing exquisite hauteprêt, prêt, sustainable clothing, jewellery, home décor, gourmet fare, and more. With an

impressive lineup of renowned brands in apparel, jewellery, footwear, and accessories, there is something to captivate every visitor from men, women and children. Perfect for the wedding season and gifting at festive occasions, Ikigai Exhibitions 2023 is a must-attend event. Venue: The Westin Pune Koregaon Park Date: July 8th, 2023 Time: 11 AM to 8:30 PM

## Make quality education accessible and affordable for all - Prof V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras

**Pune (Voice news service):-** IIT Madras Director Prof. V Kamakoti on Thursday emphasised on making education accessible and affordable for all students in India.

"We should focus on improving gross enrolment ratio of school students, interdisciplinary education and research mindset, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation and internationalisation of Indian knowledge system. We are at the cusp of a change and hence we should make education accessible and affordable for all," Prof Kamakoti stated while addressing the 2nd Academic Excellence Conclave organised by QS I-Gauge in Pune. Savitribai Phule Pune University Vice-Chancellor Prof (Dr) Suresh Gosavi, Prof (Dr) Rajan Saxena, Former Vice Chancellor at NMIMS and Advisor to FICCI HEI, Dr Ashwin Fernandes, Regional Director, QS and CEO QS I-Gauge, Ravin Nair, Chief Operating Officer, QS I-Gauge were present during the inaugural session of the conclave themed 'Charting India's Global



Education Path: A time-bound roadmap.' Prof Kamakoti said, "Stakeholders within the education system in India need to cultivate a mindset of interdisciplinary education and research in school students and intervene to create more employers by promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. Institutes like IITs and other stakeholders need to intervene at rural levels and make education accessible and affordable for all students across India." Dr Gosavi said, "India is one of the fastest growing economies globally. Transforming the education system is a big task in India with more than 40 per cent population looking for quality

education. While theoretically it is possible to create a time-bound roadmap for India's global education path, it is more situation-based system and for that we need to statistically evaluate the database."

Prof Dr Saxena said, "India is attracting less than 50 thousand international students. We need to improve our institutional reputation at global levels. If we invest in faculty competence development, student centricity, increase funding for PhD programs, leverage digital technology and skills and reach out to the world market then we can make a significant improvement in our education system in the coming decade."

## 10 Universities conferred with QS I-GAUGE Rating Awards

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Ten Indian universities were conferred upon with the prestigious QS I-GAUGE Rating Awards at the 2nd Academic Excellence Conclave organised by QS I-GAUGE in Pune. MIT World Peace University (WPU), Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, and D Y Patil Vidyapeeth from Maharashtra received the Diamond badge with the awards. Reva University, Bengaluru (Diamond badge); The NorthCap University, Gurgaon (Diamond); Alliance University, Bengaluru (Diamond); S. J. C Institute of Technology, Chikballapur (Gold); Sri Venkateshwar College of Engineering, Bengaluru (Gold); and Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru



(Gold) were among the awardees who were felicitated during the conclave. The awards were presented at the hands of Ravin Nair, Chief Operating Officer, QS I-GAUGE and Dr Ashwin Fernandes, Regional Director, QS and CEO QS I-GAUGE. The conclave witnessed participation of over 100 institutes and around 200 representatives. Universities were evaluated on several parameters including teaching and learning, social responsibility and sensitisation,

competency and development, resources and facilities, employability, faculty quality, diversity and accessibility, governance and structure, research and academic development. Expressing his gratitude, Dr R M Chitnis, Vice Chancellor, MIT-WPU said, "We are excited to receive this award. We are continuously striving to improve the quality of education imparted to our students. We will try to gain the Platinum badge in the next edition of QS I-GAUGE."

Earlier in the conclave, experts including Prof Swati Karad Chate, Trustee Secretary General, MAEER's MIT Group; Dr Vidya Yeravadekar, Pro-Chancellor, SIU; Prof Dishan Kamdar, Vice Chancellor, FLAME University discussed various topics like 'Benchmarking Quality of Holistic Education', 'Fostering Empathy in Global Citizenship Education', 'Unlocking New Frontiers of Learning in the Digital Realm', and 'Reverse Engineering to Cultivate Youth Employability'.

## State's Largest Solar Energy Equipment Exhibition Organized by MASMA

**Pune:** Punekar's will get to see and buy solar-powered solar water heaters, solar dryers, solar refrigerators, solar cooler generators, inverters, and various other equipment. "Solar Expo 2023" organized by Maharashtra Solar Manufacturing Association (MASMA) is free for citizens. The two-day exhibition will be held on Saturday and Sunday (July 8 and 9, 2023) at Mahalakshmi Lawns on DP Road. More than 86 stalls of solar power equipment manufacturers' products are on display here. It

has everything from small items to large business equipment. Maharashtra Solar Manufacturers Association (MASMA) President Rohan Upasani informed that the general consumer to small and medium entrepreneurs will benefit from this exhibition to purchase various equipment. Rohan Upasani said that in this exhibition there will also be guidance from various dignitaries about new technologies in the solar energy sector as well as subsidies. Also, as a sense of social responsibility, we are conducting



ing a blood donation camp at this time. The exhibition will be inaugurated by Dinesh Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Rajendra Pawar, Chief Engineer,

Mahavitaran, Pankaj Tagadpallewar, Additional Director General, MEDA. Masma appeals to citizens to take maximum advantage of this free solar equipment exhibition.

## PCMC Signs MoU With Lighthouse Communities Foundation for setting up World of Work centres to provide livelihood opportunities to youths



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation has entered into a MoU [Memorandum of Understanding] with Lighthouse Communities Foundation for setting up of World of Work (WoW) centres in the city under the aegis of the Global Opportunity Youth Network [GOYNN]. GOYNN is a global collaborative led by Aspen Institute, USA. The GOYNN-Pune program has been anchored by the reputed non-profit Lighthouse Communities Foundation since November 2019 and is now being extended to the city of Pimpri-Chinchwad.

The MoU for setting up WoW centres in Pimpri-Chinchwad over the next 5 years, was executed on 30th June 2023, at Pimpri in the presence of Municipal Commissioner Shekhar Singh. The WoW program is designed to enable livelihood opportunities for youth between the age of 18-35 years living in urban slum/low-income communities. Any youth from low income communities, looking for a job or self employment can access relevant information as well as mentors through physical centres, helplines or a digital platform. The program helps young people understand career options, discover their potential, set goals and secure jobs. Career counsellors are available on call, and comprehensive information is provided with respect to options in the city for vocational training and jobs. The program also supports youth in completing their high school education, setting up micro businesses, or accessing allied support services.

In the 2 years that the WoW program has been operational in Pune, it has positively impacted 25000 youth. Some have opted for career counselling whilst others have re-entered formal education and still others have secured jobs. WoW centres will operate as a collective action program, working with multiple partner organisations across the city including skilling organisations, employers, recruitment agencies, community based organisations, philanthropic/CSR foundations, colleges, NGOs, corporators and community leaders, corporates and more. Commissioner Shekhar Singh said, "The exciting aspect of starting the WoW program in PCMC was that with both, the Lighthouse and WoW program working in parallel, one could aspire for a city 'saturation' model with the aim of 'No Youth Left Behind'. It would be truly fulfilling to provide access to every youth from low-income communities in PCMC to a pathway towards livelihood and full potential."

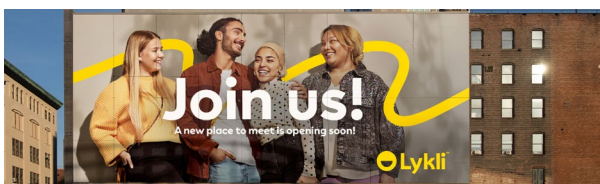
Ganesh Natarajan, Chairman of Lighthouse Communities Foundation said, "We are delighted to be partnering with PCMC for the World of Work (WoW) program. In our work of the last 7 years through the Lighthouse program, we have understood that young people benefit greatly when they get in touch with a strong positive influence. We hope that the WoW centres, together with the PCMC Lighthouses, will provide a pathway to every single youth from low-income communities in Pimpri-Chinchwad, looking for a livelihood." PCMC Deputy Commissioner (Urban Community Development) Ajay Charthankar talked about how the World of Work centres will guide youth who are aged 15 years and above, give information about skilling and livelihood options and link them to different pathways. He mentioned about this being a unique and high reach program for youth from slums and low income households.

## Amazon Introduces personalized products with the launch of "Customize" feature

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Amazon India's first-ever free self-serve product customization feature, "Customize Your Product" is now available across a wide selection of more than 10,000 plus products from 76 different categories. This enhanced feature offers an intuitive customization experience that provides visual design tools to customers to personalize products, along with an interactive product preview option to view the final customized product in real-time. Manish Tiwary, Vice President

and Country Manager, Consumer Business, Amazon India said, "As a customer-obsessed marketplace, our endeavor has been to enrich the customer shopping experience through incorporating various innovations. For customers looking to create memorable products (gifts) or tailor a product to fit their needs, our sellers now offer a customization feature within Amazon on more than 10 thousand products. Fueled by the hyper trend of personalized products, we at Amazon India strive to widen the product selection soon."

## INGKA CENTRES' NEWEST DESTINATION, "LYKLI" PUTS INDIA IN FRONT AND CENTRE OF THE RETAIL REVOLUTION



**Pune (Voice news service):-** India's retail landscape is experiencing a remarkable transformation as the country witnesses a skyrocketing rise of the shopping mall culture. Anticipated to surge at an annual

growth rate of 29 percent, the retail sales within the shopping malls of the top eight cities are poised to reach an impressive \$39 billion by 2027. As consumers crave immersive shopping experiences and a di-

verse range of offerings under one roof, Ingka Centres' newest meeting place Lykli is set to emerge as a key destination for entertainment, social connections and retail therapy in the lucrative Indian market. "Shopping malls have long been perceived as simply places to shop. Ingka Centres' immersive experiences challenge this outdated concept and transform shopping malls into a destination for many people to recharge, play,

build emotional connections and nurture community. Lykli will capture that promise in its own unique way directly speaking to the people of Gurugram," says Anna Larsen, Global Marketing Manager for Ingka Centres. The name Lykli comes from 'lycklig', a Swedish word for 'happy' and it was chosen by its future customers in India! With customer satisfaction being the company's top priority, Ingka Centres invited people to share

their feelings around several potential names, and they were instinctively drawn to happiness, vibrancy and liveliness embodied by 'Lykli'. The first assets to bear the bright and lively new brand will be Lykli Gurugram meeting place in New Delhi, scheduled to open in late 2025. The meeting place will be anchored by IKEA and has been designed to meet local needs with a playful blend of dining and entertainment complement-

ed by a diverse retail selection of both global and local brands. It will also provide high-class office facilities as well as spaces for community events. Earlier this year, Ingka Centres confirmed that PVR Limited became the first tenant of Lykli Gurugram that will operate a nine-screen movie multiplex as a part of a leisure offer in a new meeting place, with many more tenants bringing unique and exciting experiences!



## Samsung Launches its Digital Service Center, Offers Personalized Support, Faster Service Access & DIY Videos to Consumers

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has launched its Digital Service Center, a comprehensive platform that will provide consumers a personalized customer service experience related to their products. Consumers can access the Digital Service Center by going to the support menu on <https://www.samsung.com/in> or directly logging on to [www.samsungdigitalservicecenter.com](http://www.samsungdigitalservicecenter.com). The Digital Service Center provides personalized support based on the needs of consumers once they log in to their Samsung account. This includes a simplified user navigation journey, quick access to category-wise self-help content, category-specific DIY

videos, mobile app experience, and model-specific repair and spare part prices at one page. Through the DIY videos, consumers will be able to find resolutions to many issues related to their products such as how to use screen mirroring feature on your TV, how to connect Soundbar to the TV, how to install your Samsung semi-automatic washing machine, how to set up the Freestyle projector, or how to use auto restart feature in Samsung Galaxy smartphones. Consumers can book appointments to get priority service at service centers, avail pick & drop service, locate a service center, get details of warranty policies, track repairs, get information about service costs, schedule callback requests through remote

and visual support, and get software updates through the Digital Service Center. "At Samsung, we have always believed in catering to the evolving needs of customers. The Digital Service Center is a step towards simplifying post-purchase services and providing personalized support to our consumers. We understand that to fully empower consumers, they need to be offered easy access to a digitalized ecosystem. The platform boasts easy navigation for consumers and also provides them access to product specific DIY videos, helping them resolve their queries with ease," said Mr. Sunil Cutinha, Vice President, Customer Service, Samsung India. The Digital Service Center can also be used to access several

additional digital service options that Samsung offers to its customers, helping them resolve their issues without stepping out of their homes. Customers can opt for WhatsApp Support, Remote Support, technical assistance through the call center or access do-it-yourself videos on the Samsung Website and on YouTube. Samsung also operates a 'Smart Touch Call' service that reduces wait time for customers when they call Samsung's Customer Care to resolve their queries. Customers have the option to switch to a synchronized voice and screen interface instead of a traditional call center experience. Smart Touch Call is an intuitive service experience that captures the caller's needs and enables them to interact with the system.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Continues to Post Strong Sales Growth

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today reported an impressive performance with the sales of 19,608 units in the month of June 2023, an increase of 19% over the same period last year, where the company sold 16,512 units. While overall domestic sales stood at 18,237 units, exports accounted for 1,371 units in the month of June 2023. TKM maintained its robust sales momentum from January to June in CY 2023 by selling a total of 1,02,371 units, surpassing the figures of 75,017 units sold in the same period last year thus resulting in a growth of 36%. Furthermore, company's solid performance also reflected in

the sales achieved in the first quarter of the current Financial Year (FY) with a 33% increase by selling 55,528 units compared to 41,813 units in the corresponding period of the previous year. Mr. Atul Sood, Vice President of Sales, and Strategic Marketing at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "Toyota Kirloskar Motor continues to post strong sales growth, thanks to the robust performance of our entire product range we achieved a remarkable growth of 19% in the month of June. Ever since the launch of Urban Cruiser Hyryder and Innova Hycross, we are witnessing continued high acceptance by our customers. These along with a consistent performance by the entire

product portfolio - Camry Hybrid, Fortuner, Legender, Vellfire, Glanza and the newly introduced Hilux, further encouraged by exceptional customer satisfaction, are enabling us to sustain the positive performance. Our maiden "Great 4X4 X-pedition", held in the South region, was much appreciated by the cult off-roading community whilst keeping the SUV enthusiasts engaged. This along with the various thrilling experiential drives conducted across the country for the Hilux fan base is enabling Toyota to win more hearts across the country. The commencement of three shift operations has played a vital role in enhancing operational capabilities and addressing the growing demand for our products. Looking ahead, we will continue to be driven by our customer first approach to serve customers with best-in-class vehicles along with a bundle of best in class value added propositions to meet customers' diverse needs." In the month of June, the company announced special service oriented schemes like the specialised monsoon campaign and tie-up with a financial institute to enable easy finance options to valued customers. With these and many more innovative offers in line, TKM remains committed to meeting customer expectations by constantly providing world-class products and innovative solutions.

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## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Announces

### 'Monsoon Magic' Campaign in the Western Region

**Pune (Voice news service):-** In its relentless pursuit to excel in customer centricity and prioritizing safety, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has announced its 'Monsoon Magic with Toyota' to offer a wide range of exclusive discounts and benefits to ensure a hassle-free journey this monsoon.

Services ranging from comprehensive vehicle health check-up to doorstep services are available across the Western states for the entire month of July 2023. As a company that has set a benchmark for safety standards, exceptional quality products and top-notch service experiences, this 'Monsoon Magic with Toyota' is one of the many customer centric initiatives aimed at delivering value-added services and enhancing the

overall customer experience. The campaign, that is applicable at all Toyota Dealerships across Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa, provides an assortment of exciting packages and offers\* such as:

Free 10-point comprehensive monsoon vehicle health check-up, Offers on Tire and Battery Services, Free oil filter on maintenance services, Exclusive 10% discount on Body & Paint Labor Charges,

Attractive Offers on Car Care Treatment. Commenting on initiative Mr. Rajesh Menon, General Manager Associate/Head of West Region at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We are delighted to announce our 'Monsoon Magic with Toyota' aimed at providing exceptional value and safety to our customers. As we place utmost importance on ensuring a hassle-free journey during the monsoon season, we

have meticulously curated an extensive range of benefits, designed to elevate the customer experience to newer heights. Offering a unique customer experience and ensuring hassle-free journeys during this season, we aim to address the specific needs of our customers in the Western region during the monsoon. Our unwavering goal is to go above and beyond to provide value-added services that enhance the overall customer experience, ensuring complete satisfaction every step of the way." Offers are applicable on the entire product range - Innova Crysta, Fortuner, Legender, Glanza, Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Innova Hycross, Vellfire and the Hilux. Customers can contact their nearest authorized Toyota dealership for more details.

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## TiE Pune Nurture Mentoring Program Completes 11th Version



**Pune (Voice news service):-** The recently concluded Nurture Accelerator 11.0 saw 32 mentee companies graduate - essentially achieve the goals they set for their companies at the start of this program. The program is undertaken by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Pune, a not-for-profit venture fostering entrepreneurship through mentoring, networking, education, funding, and incubation. This graduation will enable the mentee companies to increase their chances of success and growth. The reason for this phenomenal success is given by people who have themselves been successful in running their businesses.

The Nurture Accelerator Program has been specially created by successful business founders to specifically help start-ups. It is a six-month rigorous process-led program for mentoring entrepreneurs that creates positive changes in all areas of their business. This is done by a set of seasoned entrepreneurs who run successful businesses themselves and guide the mentee in various aspects related to entrepreneurship. As a mentee company, you will not only learn how to create a sharply differentiated business strategy, but also be coached in several aspects including team composition and leadership, business ethics, planning processes, competition mapping, networking, and

fund-raising. This is supplemented with classroom-based sessions where experts share practical knowledge on vital business areas. What started 11 years ago in the office of TiE Pune Charter Member Ajay Bhagwat as an initiative to help start-ups with just eight companies and seven mentors now has 173 companies graduating and 74 mentors. "We use our experience to teach, we help start-ups with what we have learnt from our mistakes and success," says Ajay Bhagwat. Statistics show that over 90% of start-ups fail and investors invest in less than 5% of the proposals they receive. Says Kiran Deshpande, TiE Global Trustee, and a mentor to more than 50 start-ups, "entrepreneurs at times miss core things such as sharp focus on customers and users, even sharper focus on early-stage markets, (not too early, not too late), hiring a CEO or their own boss if needed and many more. Says Advait Kurlkar Chairperson, TiE Pune's Nurture Accelerator 11.0, "this year we received 148 applications to

join Nurture but we accepted only 54. This is because many of these companies are either at too early a stage, perhaps still at ideation where they do not need Nurture but a validation program, or do not have a POC ready or simply are not focused enough. "A start-up must be 'mentor-able' to join the Nurture program. Often, we see that a founder is married to the solution rather than the problem. There might be several ways by which a problem can be solved and a founder must be ready to accept this," added Nikhil Karkare, co-chair, Nurture Accelerator. Given that TiE has been mentoring companies for decades, this takes on a deeper meaning. Says Kiran, "mentoring is getting under the skin of the founder and the business to transform both. It subsumes advisory, guidance, coaching and must be done not with just the head but also the heart. It requires sustained effort and can be exhausting, but brings tremendous joy." A joy that is visible on the faces of all the mentors and mentees alike.

## PropChk and IIT Roorkee collaborate to set new industry standards for Home Inspection

**Pune (Voice news service):-** PropChk, India's fastest-growing tech-enabled home inspection startup, has forged a first-of-a-kind collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee to establish industry benchmarks for verifying home inspections in the country. This groundbreaking partnership seeks to fill the gap in

standardized guidelines within the Indian real estate industry, guaranteeing properties' safety and quality through comprehensive protocols. Unlike in western countries, where industry standards for contractors, developers, builders, and end consumers are well-established, the lack of such norms in India has created a grey area in verifying the safety and adherence to construction norms of properties.

For example, let's compare the United States and India. While the US, with a population one-fourth that of India's, has an impressive number of over 5,000 home inspection companies and more than 30,000 licensed home inspectors, the home inspection in-

dustry in India is still in its early stages and lacks certified standards. Recognizing this pressing gap, PropChk and the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (known for their expertise in Civil Engineering and Architecture) aim to address this by developing a robust foundation for evaluating the construction quality of properties.

## EKA Mobility bags order of 57 e-buses from Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC)

**Pune (Voice news service):-** EKA Mobility, an electric vehicles & technology company, and a subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries Limited, today announced the acquisition of a significant order of 57 electric buses from the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC). This collaboration marks a major step towards enhancing public transportation infrastructure in the region and promoting clean mobility solutions. These electric buses will benefit approximately 1,33,15,200 passengers every year.



The deployment of these 57 electric buses is expected to save a gross of 33704 tonnes of CO2 emission as compared to diesel buses and is equivalent to planting 102134 trees. With this order, EKA's order book has grown significantly, with more than 500 electric buses and 5000 electric light commercial vehicle orders in the pipeline. Each e-bus by EKA Mobility is indigenously designed to offer a comfortable and sustainable commuting experience, contributing to reduced carbon emissions, and promoting a sustain-

able future. This fleet of e-buses is equipped with advanced features, including state-of-the-art battery technology and cutting-edge safety measures, ensuring a reliable and efficient transportation solution for the municipality and its residents. Speaking at the occasion Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder & Chairman of EKA by Pinnacle Mobility Solutions, said, "We are proud to collaborate with the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation as their preferred partner for electrifying their bus fleet. This order signifies a significant milestone for EKA Mobility and reflects our commitment to 'Making in India, for India

& the world'. Our demo product was successfully inspected by MBMC's team recently and is a testament to the fact that design and making in India is now a reality. We look forward to commencing the deliveries in the coming months, which will further fortify our partnership with Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation and help in environment-friendly mass mobility for the city of Mumbai." The 57 e-buses ordered by the MBMC will be manufactured at EKA Mobility's state-of-the-art smart, lean facility, adhering to the highest quality standards. The buses will feature spacious interiors, comfortable seating,

air-conditioning, and advanced passenger amenities to ensure a delightful travel experience. Additionally, the e-buses will be equipped with intelligent charging infrastructure to support efficient operations and minimize downtime.

The adoption of electric buses by the MBMC aligns with the government's vision of transforming India into a sustainable and electric mobility hub. It serves as an exemplar for other municipalities across the country to embrace eco-friendly public transportation options and contribute to the nation's ambitious climate goals.

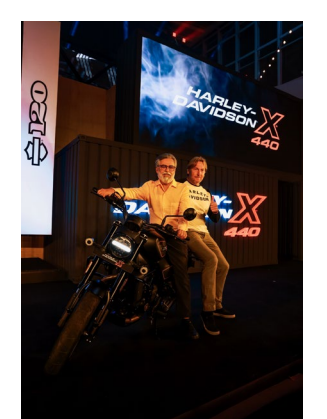
EKA Mobility is an automotive and technology company that will introduce sustainable, profitable & efficient new energy commercial vehicles across the country. The company has also developed a 9-meter city bus on a hydrogen fuel cell platform, that is uniquely designed and optimized to suit Indian road transportation needs. Going forward, the company plans to introduce multiple electric and hydrogen fuel-cell bus variants, along with an e-LCV range.

## HERO MOTOCORP & HARLEY-DAVIDSON CO-DEVELOPED PREMIUM MOTORCYCLE 'HARLEY-DAVIDSON X440' DEBUTS IN INDIA

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Taking a significant step forward in their journey together, Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, and iconic American motorcycle-maker Harley-Davidson launched their co-developed premium motorcycle - the Harley-Davidson X440 in India. The Harley-Davidson X440 becomes the first premium motorcycle to be introduced under the licensing agreement between the two brands.

The Harley-Davidson X440 was unveiled at a ceremony at the world-class and state-of-the-art Hero Center for Innovation and Technology (CIT) today by Dr. Pawan Munjal - Executive Chairman of Hero MotoCorp and Mr. Jochen Zeitz - Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Harley-Da-

vidson in the presence of investors, media, dealers and partners. The Harley-Davidson X440 marks Hero MotoCorp and Harley-Davidson's foray into the 440cc segment for the first time in India. Co-developed by Hero MotoCorp and Harley-Davidson at the Hero CIT, the Harley-Davidson X440 will be manufactured at the company's Garden Factory at Neemrana, in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan. Dr. Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp, said, "The launch of the Harley-Davidson X440 is a significant milestone in our premium journey and lays a strong foundation for our future growth. The motorcycle brings the best of the iconic Harley-Davidson's signature elements with the manufacturing expertise and trusted quality



of Hero. Together, we aim to create a unique value proposition for customers in the Indian market and target a wider range of motorcycle enthusiasts." "Today's launch of the Harley-Davidson X440 marks the start of a new chapter in India for Harley-Davidson - we're excited to launch our first development as part of our partnership with Hero MotoCorp", said Jochen Zeitz, Chairman, President and CEO, Harley-Davidson. With a commanding road presence, the Harley-Davidson X440 carries the DNA of the iconic Harley-Davidson brand. It wears its heart on its sleeve with its distinctive design, all-metal body, and a powerful engine. Nimble and agile in traffic, yet supremely robust and comfortable over rough terrain, Harley-Davidson X440's ride quality opens

up a whole new world of inspiring riding experience. The much-awaited motorcycle of the year will be available in three variants - Denim, Vivid and S at Harley-Davidson dealer network across the country at an attractive price point of INR 2,29,000/- (Denim), INR 2,49,000/- (Vivid) and INR 2,69,000 (S) respectively.

## Tata Tiago hits the remarkable sales milestone of 5 Lakh units

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Tata Motors, India's leading automobile manufacturer, announced that the Tiago has achieved a significant milestone of 500,000 sales mark.



The last 1 lakh units sold have come within a span of 15 months, which indicates its rising appeal to customers seeking a dynamic and comfortable driving experience. The celebration commenced with a symbolic roll-out at the Sanand facility in Gujarat, which is the home ground for the Tiago. Over the years, the Tiago has bagged over 40 prestigious awards and earned immense popularity among numerous young and dynamic customers due to its appealing design, exceptional safety features, feature-rich interiors, and cutting-edge technology integration. The Tiago range comes in multiple powertrain options of Petrol, CNG & Electric. In addition, the Tiago NRG comes in an SUV inspired design with off-roading capabilities which is also available in both Petrol & CNG options. Ti-

ago's Net Promoter Score has received the highest rating of 51, which is a clear testament of the brand's success. Commenting on this milestone, Mr. Vinay Pant, Head-Marketing, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. said, "The Tiago has played a pivotal role in bolstering the popularity of our New Forever range since its launch. The Tiago has consistently surpassed expectations by offering discerning customers good styling, unrivaled safety standards, state-of-the-art technology, thereby reshaping the landscape of the hatch

segment. Exceeding the momentous milestone of 500k sales mark is a resounding testament to Tata Motors' unwavering commitment to excellence. We extend our sincerest gratitude to our esteemed customers for their continued interest. We are certain that the Tiago will continue to be crucial to the success of the New Forever range and the growth of the segment." The profile of Tiago buyers showcases its resonance with young and aspirational individuals, with an average buy-

er age of 35 years. 60% of Tiago's sales come from urban markets and the remaining 40% from the rural markets, highlighting its broad appeal across different customer segments.

Tiago has also witnessed a positive shift in female buyers, who contribute approximately 10% of its sales. Notably, Tiago has gained immense popularity among first-time car buyers, with 71% of its customers making their maiden car purchase in FY23. Since its launch, Tiago has achieved several key milestones, embodying Tata Motors' new design philosophy and paving the way for future models. In January 2020, Tiago received a 4-star safety rating from GNCAAP, establishing itself as the safest hatch in its segment. With its fun and smart attributes, Tiago has become the go-to hatchback for young and fun-loving customers. Tata Motors takes pride in celebrating the achievement of over 5 lakh happy Tiago owners across the country and remains committed to further enhancing the Tiago brand.

## White-Collar Hiring Remains Steady in June 2023: NaukriJobspeak

**Pune (Voice news service):-** White-collar hiring in India continued to consolidate in June 2023. The NaukriJobspeak Index, one of most accurate measures of hiring in India based on approximately 10 lakh jobs per month, stood at 2795 in June 2023. This is a 3% decline compared to June 2022 and 2% decline compared to May 2023. While the number of white collar jobs in the Tech sector and Metros declined, the number of jobs in the real estate and energy sectors, specially in non-metros, mitigated this decline to yield an overall flat job market. Oil & Gas, Real Estate, and Pharma Sectors

fly high. The Oil & Gas sector continued its bull run with 40% growth in new jobs compared to June last year. This is in line with the rapid refinery expansion and supporting roles to meet the increased domestic and export demand. The key roles witnessing maximum hiring include Exploration Engineers, Refinery Operations Managers, and Health, Safety, and Environment Specialists (HSE Specialists), predominantly in Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Delhi NCR regions. Hiring in this sector skewed toward professionals with mid-level experience.

The Real Estate sector continued its bull run with 17% growth in new jobs creation compared to June last year. Riding the infrastructure development and commercial real estate boom, Mumbai and Chennai surfaced as the key employment hubs for roles like Property Appraisers, Construction Project Managers, and Real Estate Consultants. Similarly, the Pharma sector surged with a 14% growth in new jobs compared to June last year. Propelled by sustained R&D investments in drug development, the cities of Ahmedabad, Chennai and Pune emerged as preferred destinations for hiring Biotechnologists, Clinical Research Analysts, and Quality

Assurance Specialists. Automobile, Hospitality, and Banking were some of the other sectors witnessing positive hiring sentiments, with 12%, 11%, and 11% growth in the new jobs created compared to June last year. The IT industry hiring continued to remain an area of concern, with a 31% decline in new jobs created compared to June last year. The decline in hiring was prominent across all types of IT companies, including global tech giants, large IT services companies, tech-focused startups, and unicorns. Hiring dipped across all Metros and Non-Metros, with IT-dependent metro cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Pune being hardest hit.