



## Lila Poonawalla Foundation (LPF) invites scholarship applications from young women in Pune

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Great news for young women pursuing Undergraduation degree in Engineering, Engineering After Diploma, Pharmacy or Nursing.

Lila Poonawalla Foundation (LPF) invites scholarship applications from academically bright young women who come from a financially disadvantaged background. From last 27 years, LPF has awarded scholarships and variety of employability skill building programs to over 14,000 girls and young women across Pune, Wardha, Amravati District and Nagpur City in Maharashtra, Hyderabad in Telangana and Bengaluru in Karnataka state. Over thousands of them are pursuing their flourishing careers with renowned organizations and supporting their families and communities. The girls who have taken admissions in colleges/ universities in Pune districts for the first academic year of 2023-2024 in Bachelor of Engineering (4 Years), Bachelor of Engineering after Diploma (3 Years), Bachelor of Pharmacy (4 years) or Bachelor of Science in Nursing (4 years) are eligible to apply. Last date for applications is Engineering - 9th September, Pharmacy - 16th September, Engineering After Diploma - 27th September and Nursing - 7th October.

Scholarship Application Forms mentioning eligibility criteria are available on <https://www.lpfscholarship.com> For more details, kindly contact Ms. Asmita Shinde/ Ms. Nishad Patewale on LPF Office landline: 020 - 27224264 / 65 OR Mobile: 8669998981 OR Email: [lpfpunescholarship@lilapoonawallafoundation.com](mailto:lpfpunescholarship@lilapoonawallafoundation.com) (Contact hours: 11:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Monday to Saturday)



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## The G20 Summit Commemorative Choker Necklace by PNG Jewellers and Vasupati Jewellers

**Pune (Voice news service):-** In a remarkable celebration of India's presidency at this year's G20 summit, PNG Jewellers and Vasupati Jewellers have collaborated to create a resplendent choker necklace that epitomizes unity, shared responsibility, and a collective commitment to our planet. The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, Shri Nitin Gadkari, unveiled this exquisite masterpiece, marking a historic moment in time at the launch of PNG Jewellers new store in Nagpur.

This masterpiece, inspired by the trend forecast of 2023 that focuses on the elegance of floral patterns, ingeniously weaves together the symbolism of the Tree of Life and the lotus flower — an emblematic representation of India along with the National flower of each of the 19 other participating member nations, beautifully conveying the summit's guiding motto: "One earth. One family. One future."

Dr. Saurabh Gadgil, Chairman and Managing Director, PNG Jewellers shared, "The G20 Summit Commemorative Choker Necklace is an artistic



embodiment of the shared vision that the world's nations carry for a harmonious and sustainable future. It carries the essence of the G20 summit's theme while celebrating India's role as the host nation. This necklace transcends its form, carrying a message of global unity and collective responsibility. We are proud to have partnered with Vasupati Jewellers to create this fantastic piece of art as a remembrance for this momentous occasion."

Mr. Avnip Kothari, Creative director, Vasupati Jewellers, added, "Crafting this masterpiece was a labour of love and commitment to our planet's wellbeing. Every aspect

carved in wax and then cast to achieve a flawless finish. The piece is adorned with green aventurine stone, a nod to our precious Earth. Its design encompasses a balanced interplay of matte and high polish finishes, with the oxidized base allowing the intricate floral motifs to stand out prominently.

Reflecting the essence of unity among the G20 nations, the flowers remain uncolored, showcasing a vivid representation of harmony in diversity. This choice sends a resounding message of collaboration and cooperation, echoing the ethos of the G20 summit's shared responsibility for a brighter global future.

In sum, the PNG Jewellers x Vasupati Jewellers G20 Summit Commemorative Choker Necklace is not just a piece of exquisite jewelry; it is a tangible embodiment of the spirit of unity, shared responsibility, and a collective commitment to the betterment of our planet.

As the G20 summit approaches, this masterpiece stands as a timeless reminder of the importance of global harmony and cooperation.

## ICICI Bank opens 100th branch in Pune

**Pune (Voice news service):-** ICICI Bank has set up a branch at Baner in Pune, the 100th branch of the Bank in the city.

Housed at Pancard Club Road, the branch is equipped with an ATM-cum-Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) to offer cash deposit and withdrawal services to customers. Mr. Rakesh Jha, Executive Director, ICICI Bank inaugurated the branch. Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Jha said, "We are delighted to announce the launch of our 100th branch in the cultural capital of Maharashtra. We trust our customers would continue to like our digitally-driven and user-friendly products and services. As the city gears up for the forthcoming festive season, we look forward to serve our customers - the individuals, businesses, and corporates to meet their banking and financial needs effortlessly."

The branch offers a comprehensive range of accounts, including savings and current accounts, trade and forex services, fixed and recurring deposits, loans - business

loan, home loan, personal loan, auto loan, and gold loan along with remittance and card services.

The branch also offers banking services to NRI customers. It further provides locker facility at its premises. It operates from 9:30 A.M to 3:00 P.M on Monday to Friday and on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of the month.

The branch also offers Tab Banking facility that provides nearly 100 services at the customer's place by an employee through a tablet device.

The services include opening of accounts, Fixed Deposit (FD), raising cheque book request, generation of e-statements and change of address, among others.

ICICI Bank has a network of about 850 branches and 2,900 ATMs and cash recycling machines (CRMs) in Maharashtra. ICICI Bank services its large customer base through a multi-channel delivery network of branches, ATMs, call centers, internet banking ([www.icicibank.com](http://www.icicibank.com)), and mobile banking.

## ASG Eye Hospital conducts corneal transplant surgery campaign for the needy on the occasion of eye donation fortnight

**Pune (Voice news service):-** National Eye Donation Fortnight is celebrated in India from August 25 to September every year to give visually impaired people an opportunity to experience the joy of our beautiful world. The day is observed with the aim of motivating and encouraging people for eye donation, removing various misconceptions related to eye transplant or eye donation. A single eye donation can provide sight to two corneal blind people, yet there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of eyes. National Eye Donation Fortnight is celebrated in all our ASG Eye Hospitals, to bring common people on a platform to understand the importance of eye donation and to provide corneal transplant surgery services to the needy, informed Corneal Surgeons Dr. Bhupesh Jain, Dr. Arushi Goyal Deshmukh and Dr. Hemant Kamble in this press conference. At this



time Dr. Pawan Chavan, Dr. Kaustubh Deshmukh were present

Dr. Arushi Goyal said that according to the National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB), there are currently approximately 4,50,000 bilateral corneal blind people in India. 25000-30000 additional cases are added every year. Currently, 45,294 donor eyes are collected annually in India. There is a huge gap to be filled. We started corneal transplant in May 2022 at ASG Eye Hospital, Pimple Saudagar. A corneal transplant is a surgical procedure to restore sight to patients with corneal blindness. In India, organ donation and

transplantation is regulated by law. This procedure requires a special license from the hospital and a specialist in the form of a specialist surgeon. This tissue is obtained from eye donation after death through licensed specialized eye collection centers. The FC Road branch in Pune also has a similar facility.

Dr. Bhupesh Jain said that cornea diseases are more common among rural people. We intend to visit villages near and far. We intend to provide the best healthcare network here. ASG Eye Hospital is equipped with all modern facilities. It also has a great team of specialist doctors for cor-

nea, retina, glaucoma, pediatrics and ophthalmology services. Being a tertiary care center with, a complete and expert consultation is intended.

Dr. Pawan Chavan said that there is a layer above the eye, which serves to cover the front part of the eye, called the cornea. Eye infections, eye herpes and any type of injury can damage the cornea. If it is not treated in time, it can lead to permanent blindness. When this happens, a corneal transplant is needed to restore vision. Many patients cannot undergo corneal transplantation due to lack of eye donation.

Dr. Kaustubh Deshmukh said, eye is the most sensitive organ of our body. Even a small problem related to this can lead to big and serious problems. Defects in the cornea of the eye can also eliminate vision. It can cause blindness. Therefore, special care should be taken with the eyes.

## Winners of the 2023 Brillio National STEM Challenge Announced in Pune

**Pune:** Winners of the 2023 Brillio National STEM Challenge were announced at the grand finale held in Pune today. This was the third edition of the National STEM Challenge organized by Brillio, a leading digital transformation services and solutions provider, in collaboration with STEM Learning, a social enterprise focused on driving STEM education among school children.

The finale marked the culmination of year-long STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) activities, including science and mathematics model competitions, technology quizzes, and engineering tinkering. The finale was attended by more than 130 students and 40 teachers from 20 schools across 13 states.

Brillio National STEM Challenge is a one-of-its-kind national competition that provides a unique STEM learning platform to underserved students of government and government-aided schools across India as part of Brillio's ongoing focus on skills development. The National STEM Challenge is designed to foster curiosity, innovation, and design thinking skills among students from grades 6 through 10, regardless of their background.

In the run-up to the finale, more than 2,500 students from 20 states were trained in new-age technologies by volunteers from Brillio and STEM Learning. These students competed in over 70 cluster, zonal, and state-level rounds. The top 50 teams comprising more than 100 students from 13 states — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Assam, Delhi, UP, Haryana, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, MP, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu — made it to the national finale.

Celebrated Mentors, Speakers and Jury Members

The contestants were judged and the winners felicitated by eminent personalities from the worlds of science, education, and technology. They included:

- Mr. Anant Vishwanath Patki, former Deputy Director of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Mr. M. C. Uttam, former Deputy Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Thiruvananthapuram



- Mr. Pravin Chordia, Scientist at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)
- Dr. Parag Kalkar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University
- Mr. Anil Rao Paila, Pro Vice Chancellor, Vijaybhoomi University
- Dr. Jitendra Sangwai, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
- Ms. Anupama Ramachandra, Fulbright Scholar and Principal of Delhi Public School, Electronic City, Bangalore
- Anant Vishwanath Patki, former Deputy Director of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), congratulated the winners, stating: "It's inspiring to witness the outstanding achievements of these young minds. Their ingenious solutions showcase the limitless potential that lies within our future STEM leaders. This competition exemplifies how offering STEM opportunities to underprivileged youth helps level the playing field and drive critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. By helping transcend social and financial barriers, such initiatives can unlock a new future for those who are passionate, driven, and innovative — qualities that connect our teams at ISRO with these dedicated young students."
- Dr. Parag Kalkar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University, said: "A strong STEM workforce is crucial for driving innovation and economic growth. By nurturing the potential of underprivileged youth, Brillio and STEM Learning are helping tap into a diverse pool of talent that can contribute fresh perspectives and ideas to the STEM fields, setting the tone for discoveries and advancements of tomorrow. Providing STEM exposure to underprivileged students is also key to boosting India's competitiveness on the

international stage by ensuring a skilled and adaptable workforce."

Sandeep Rane, Global Head of Delivery at Brillio, said: "I am truly impressed by the innovative solutions these students have envisioned. The National STEM Challenge underscores the remarkable resourcefulness of our talented young minds. All they need is an opportunity. This initiative is key to our efforts to help bridge the digital divide and ensure that all young people have the chance to develop the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the technology-driven world of the future. What we've witnessed year after year has been nothing short of inspiring. We are both delighted and honored by the opportunity to motivate the next generation of STEM leaders."

Ashutosh Pandit, Founder of STEM Learning, said: "I am thrilled that the National STEM Challenge has successfully completed its third edition, providing a platform to the passion for science and technology among students from the far reaches of India. Studies suggest that 80% of the jobs created in the next decade will require some form of mathematics and science skills. Together with Brillio, we are committed to addressing the most significant challenges in government schools, offering guidance, providing the infrastructure, and extending the necessary support to help students explore and nurture their interest in STEM subjects and equip them with some of the most sought-after skills in today's job market."

Suchitra K, a student at Government High School, Konappana Agrahara, Karnataka, said: "Participating in the National STEM Challenge has been an incredible journey for me and my friends. It has

shown us that no dream is too big when it comes to solving real-world problems. This competition has not only broadened our horizons but also ignited a lifelong passion for innovation and learning. We are deeply grateful to Brillio, STEM Learning, and our mentors for this experience. With the skills and knowledge gained here, we feel ready to take on the world and contribute to the ever-evolving field of science and technology."

Winners

Here's a list of winners:

National Science Model Making Awards:

1st: Pratik Narhari Jagdhane (Smt. S. D. Ganage Prashala Triveni Nagar, Pune) and Ashrivada Appunni Patil, GMPS Navage, Pune

2nd: Narayan Manjrekar (Malgaon English School, Mumbai) and Rudra Gurav (Kalsuli English School, Mumbai)

National Tinkering and Engineering Awards:

1st: Tanishq Sachin Chavan (Navonmesh Vidyamandir, Chakan) and Ganesh Babu Kamathe (Punarunth Samarsata Gurukulam, Pune)

2nd: Amrutha (Rani Sarala Devi High School, Bangalore) and Chetan D (Rani Sarala Devi High School, Bangalore)

National Math & Tech Quiz Awards

1st: Kanishk Tandel (Gurukul English Medium School, Walkhad, Mumbai) and Hardika Patil (S.E Rave, Mumbai)

2nd: Manohar Mukund (Navonmesh Vidyamandir, Chakan, Pune) and Anup Mahadev Waghire

National STEM Master Maker 2023 Award

1st: Narayan Manjrekar (Malgaon English School, Mumbai)

2nd: Tanishq Chavan (Navonmesh Vidyamandir, Chakan, Pune)

The following teachers were awarded

- C Padmavathi, GHS Konappana Agrahara, Bangalore (Karnataka)
- Mr. Ananta Sarkar, Jyanga Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kolkata (West Bengal)
- Md. Yasin Ansari, Netaji Hridi Vidyapeeth, Bongaingaon (Assam)
- Mr. Rameet Singh, Om Foundation School, Delhi
- Anikl Kumar Panika, Government Middle School, Kanai (Madhya Pradesh)

## Mr Siddhant Chordiya, Executive Development Officer (EDO) of Suryadatta Group of Institutes, Pune visits Finland

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Mr Siddhant Chordiya, working as Executive Development Officer (EDO) at Suryadatta Group of Institutes, Pune is nominated for Educon 2023, organised by India's leading Media group in coordination with Council for Creative Education (CCE), Finland. Mr Siddhant Chordiya is BE (Civil) graduate and complete Masters in HRM, & Finance. He is currently pursuing PhD.

In this Educon 2023, 60+ delegates from 25+ Group of Institutes / Universities across India are participating. The delegation consists of

Vice Chancellors, Trustees, & Senior management team. The Educon is being organised every year from last 15 years in various countries to strengthen educational ties, foster collaboration, Joint ventures, and explore opportunities for academic exchange. Educon 2023 delegation's itinerary includes visits to leading Finnish universities such as University of Tampere, University of Helsinki, LUT University, etc., interactive sessions with Finnish educators, industries, Chambers of Commerce, engaging discussions on educational best practices, & Knowledge sharing &

Knowledge gaining through intellectual discussions with Finnish counterparts.

Mr Chordiya's focus will be visiting various school for possible knowledge exchange, understanding Finland's School of Future - innovative teaching methodologies, curriculum development, teacher training, educational technology integration, hands on experience, and student-centered learning approaches. The School of Future methodology will be implemented at Suryadatta's Global School of Future (SGSF) with Indian sensibilities, thereby providing the best education at par



with Global standards while observing Indian Values & Culture, and Indian Philosophy. Suryadatta's Management, & Core team wishes Mr Siddhant Chordiya Success in his endeavours in Finland

## Shoppers Stop unveils the new Fratini collection with brand ambassador Sanya Malhotra

**Pune (Voice news service):-** In line with the continued focus on private brands; the key strategic pillar of growth, this season, Shoppers Stop launched their new Fratini collection with their newest campaign 'Live Epic' with their brand ambassador, Sanya Malhotra.

The 'Live Epic' campaign encapsulates the spirit of the Fratini girl, who exudes confidence and effortlessly expresses her unique style. It introduces a stylish and trendy smart casualwear collection designed to inspire individuals to live life to the fullest and with confidence.

The Fratini campaign portrays Sanya as the cheerful and confident, Fratini girl who wants the best of both worlds. The woman of today, who

wants to live life to the fullest, without making any choices. Her vibrant personality shines through as she embarks on thrilling adventures, shares meaningful moments with her mother, explores her passion for travel, pursues her career, and seeks love in her friend. Accompanied by an upbeat soundtrack, the advertisement effectively conveys the message of living an epic life without compromises.

The new Fratini collection offers an extensive range of dresses, modern workwear and relaxed casual ensembles in a delightful spectrum of colors and silhouettes. This collection aims to cater to the diverse preferences of today's women, providing a wide array of fashion to choose from. Speaking about the

campaign, Ms. Shwetal Basu, Customer Care Associate and Chief of Marketing and Communication at Shoppers Stop, said; At Shoppers Stop, we are always committed to inspiring and engaging our customers, and we believe that self-expression lies at the heart of fashion. The 'Live Epic' campaign for Fratini underscores the brand's dedication to inspiring people to live life to the fullest and with confidence. Why just live, when you can Live Epic"

Sanya Malhotra, brand ambassador, expressed her excitement, saying, "I am so happy to be a part of Fratini's latest campaign and to represent Shoppers Stop, one of the most loved fashion and beauty destinations in India. Fratini's collection beautifully

blends style and a liberated fashion narrative. The 'Live Epic' campaign captures me making life choices in different situations. I am especially excited about the creative expression that has been given to this campaign."



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Westside, a part of the iconic Indian family - TATA, has inaugurated its newest store in the Pune city with an aim to inspire fashion enthusiasts.

Located at Westside, Phoenix Mall of Millenium, Survey no. 132/23, Behind Sayaji Hotel, Wakad, Pune-411057, the store is spread across 20,000 sq.ft. With a conscious effort of making style simple for every moment, it will feature most of Westside's brands across apparels, accessories,

cosmetics, and footwear - all conveniently available at one location!

The new store seamlessly embodies the brand's vision of delivering an extraordinary retail experience, providing customers with contemporary and modern fashion trends at an exceptional value.

It is committed to offering a seamless shopping experience, with meticulously arranged and clutter-free displays that highlight the newest fashions.

With distinctive style, the

brand embraces innovation and refreshes their collection every three weeks on Friday. All the ladies, get ready to splurge till you drop with the fashion's favourite labels at the best prices! Indian wear by Westside is equally fashionable and engaging as the western wear.

Utsa offers a versatile collection and is the modern solution to the everyday ethnic wardrobe. The most loved Bombay Paisley presents a contemporary, creative, free-spirited and fusion while

Vark is coordinated ethnic wear for occasions that are modern, opulent, warm and sophisticated. Zuba, on the other hand, is premium daywear that personifies elegance and modernity that is majestic and understated.

NUON is for all young girls who love party-glam and are zestful about fashion. The brand reflects youth that engages a social generation. Looking for smart and feminine casuals? Look no more as L.O.V is the answer for anything subtle and flattering.

## Wynk Studio wins music distribution rights to Kay Kay Menon's starrer "Love All"

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Wynk Music, India's number 1 music streaming app by downloads and daily active users, today announced that Wynk Studio, India's largest music distribution ecosystem, has won the distribution rights to Kay Kay Menon's starrer "Love All", a movie based on the life of badminton superstar, P Gopichand. "Love All" is produced by Mahesh Bhatt and P Gopichand along with Anand Pandit. It will be released by M Ramesh's Laxmi Ganpathy Film Studios on September 01. Directed by Sudhanshu Sharma, the movie also features Swastika Mukherjee, Robin Das, Shrishwara, Atul Srivastava and Raja Bundela. The movie has five memora-

ble tracks, which are already available on Wynk. 1. Baton Baton Mein, Singer - Jubin Nautiyal, 2. Gilli Si Subah, Singer - Papon, 3. Chal Uth Jhat Path, Singer - Sonu Nigam, 4. Love All Bol De, Singer - Kay Kay Menon, 5. Sahas Do Sahas, Singer - Anjali Gayakwad. Speaking about the distribution arrangement, Adarsh Nair, CEO - Airtel Digital and Chief Product Officer - Airtel, said, "Wynk Studio was established with the vision of offering independent artists a creative outlet which would also help them with any monetisation and discovery issues they might face. We have had great success with independent artists and have 1000 artists on our ro-

ster at present. This distribution partnership will open new vistas for producers looking to explore digital distribution and wanting to capitalise on Airtel's inherent strengths of reach and connectivity." Wynk Studio has gone from strength to strength since it was established. It has recently distributed independent singles such as "Love Token" from Manj Music and Anusha Dandekar, "Billo" from Vishal Dadlani and Nikhita Gandhi's single "Pyaar mein Pagal", a simultaneously romantic and groovy number, about a girl madly in love. Wynk offers music in 15 Indian languages and regional songs now account for over 30% of the overall streams on

the app. Songs in Oriya, Gujarati, Assamese, Marathi, Telugu and Bhojpuri have seen a growth of over 150% and are popular outside their home states as well. The Wynk music journey: Sept 2014: Launched in India; crosses 1 lakh downloads in 4 days, Feb 2015: Crosses 5 million app downloads, June 2015: Launches Data Save Mode, Nov 2015: Crosses 12 million installs, Jan 2016: Introduces MP3 Player Function- Plays Local MP3 file, Mar 2017: Crosses 50 million installs, Jan 2018: Crosses 75 million install (s), Dec 2018: Voted India's most entertaining app on Playstore, Jan 2019: Crosses 100 million installs, Aug 2022: Launched Wynk Studio.

## Digital Transformation of an Indian Travel Company "Ethecs Holidays" on a Revolutionary Mission to boost Indian Economy Through Tourism

**Pune:** Ethecs Holidays, a Pune-based travel company established by Enthusiastix Management Pvt. Ltd. in the year 2014, is advancing its digital transformation journey with the upcoming deployment of its travel portal <https://www.ethecs.com/> through the integration of key tourism products and services under one roof. Ethecs Holidays, a pioneer in multiple offbeat getaways is revolutionizing the tourism industry with a new travel forum and a complete travel portal with an all-in-one service platform. Guided by its experience with thousands of clients for 9 years in a sector as diverse and special as tourism and hospitality, Ethecs Holidays wanted to reach much further to offer a new 'all-in-one' travel portal for its end user in which, in a single platform, the user can book all the necessary tourism services - Domestic and International Holiday Packages, Hotels and accommodation, activities, car rental, flights and/or insurance and Visa services - in a fast, simple and secure way. Also Ethecs Holiday's new program 'Club Ethecs', launches a powerful technology with which the management pursues to be at the forefront of the timeshare and condominium industry, thus consolidating the vacation format, the thematic getaways, evolving it into a new dimension i.e. Ethecs 2.0. "Behind every great customer experience is a dedicated team of professionals and now there will be a travel portal and a CRM that connects each step of the consumer's journey seamlessly. The new portal ethecs.com represents a significant leap in the quality of the user experience, with the web



now being much easier, more intuitive and adapted to any type of device. It allows more specific searches and the most competent pricing options with comparison. One of the great novelties is that our portal's powerful search engine allows exploring in a single purchase process, simply like 'Add to Cart' not only of activities in the chosen destination - guided tours, visits to sightseeing places, any reservations of the venues-but also plane tickets, car rentals or travel insurances." Said Mr. Ameya Gatne (Managing Director, Ethecs Holidays). This portal is specially designed for the students studying abroad to get associated with Ethecs Holidays as its international channel partner in order to promote India as a tourism destination within their network. This shall assist the students to generate the revenue for themselves and give an additional helping hand to repay their educational loans as early as possible. Whole ideology is to create a win-win-win situation for the students / channel partners, Indian Tourism and Ethecs. Ethecs also introduced its new youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@EthecsHolidays> which would assist the travelers across the globe get information about the destinations and certain do's and don't's while traveling in a very

unique way. The management appointed and introduced Ms. Gayatri Gatne as the new CEO of the company with immediate effect. Ms. Gatne threw some light upon her vision and plans as the driving force of the company. "Women empowerment in the tourism industry is one of the areas where employment and entrepreneurship avenues are wide open. We have designed the industry's first 'Solo Franchise' opportunities with a minimum investment and maximum ROI scope. Through Ethecs Holiday's channel partner program exclusively intended towards generating more "womenpreneurs", women with a career gap, house makers and anyone with a passion for tourism and hospitality can enter the realm of the travel industry. Ethecs Holidays is offering training and development programs for its channel partners to ensure the smooth functioning of the solo franchise owners with complete hand-holding support." Said Ms. Gayatri Gatne (CEO, Ethecs Holidays). Ethecs Holidays further announced an initiative for the travel and tourism industry as 'FETH' (Forum Ethecs for Tourism & Hospitality). FETH is aimed to be a non-profit project intended to vouch for the tourism & hospitality industry by creating a win-win sit-

uation for Govt. of India, Travelers and Tourism entrepreneurs. FETH further plans to deliver industrial training through, offering help and support to the channel partners and aims to generate 1000+ employment by offering internships & placements and offering Franchise opportunities. Chief Guest Hon Shri Shripadji Naik (Union Minister for Tourism and Ports for the state) graced an event virtually and launched the travel portal [www.ethecs.com](https://www.ethecs.com). He appreciated the efforts and dedication of team Ethecs and also shared about the favorable future of tourism in India. The Guest of honor Mr. Atul Joglekar (National Trainer & Co-Executive Director - BNI Pune East & North Region) and Mr. Bharat Daga (Author & Co Executive Director BNI Pune East & North Region) wholeheartedly expressed their gratitude towards Ethecs holidays and narrated the mutual journey of Ethecs & BNI evolve together in the past 7+ years. Mrs. Komal Auti (Financial & NLP Coach) & Mr. Dilip Auti (International Business Strategist, Motivational & TEDx Speaker) guided the audience and closed the event on a heartwarming and motivational note. Mr. Vishwajeet Deshpande (MSME Industrial Cell Head - BJP) Mr. Prashant Joshi (Mumbai Region Head of Business Development - TATA Power), Mr. Ramesh Shewale (Founding President of JAK Medico Association and Vice President of Pune Chemist Association) and over 400+ other VIP entrepreneurs were present at this mega launch of Ethecs 2.0

## Bengal continues to dominate at 3rd National Finswimming Championships Pune 2023



**Pune (Voice news service):-** West Bengal Fin Swimmers Continued to dominate proceedings winning Four out of the seven golds on the third day of the 3rd National Finswimming Championships 2023 organized by Underwater Sports Association of Maharashtra under aegis of Underwater Sports Federation of India being held at Swimming Complex, Shree Shivchhatrapati Kreedra Sankul, Mhalunge Balewadi, Pune. West Bengal Fin swimmers won in the 50MTR Bi-Fins Ju-

nior E girls: Akshita Mukherjee took the gold while the 50MTR Bi-fins Junior E Boys was won by Angshuman Nag Antara Biswas won the gold in 50MTR Bi-Fins Master V Women while Aishwarya Gupta win the gold in 50MTR Bi-Fins Master V1 Women event. The prizes were given away at the hands of Mr. Achanta Pandit treasurer of Underwater sports Federation of India, Mr. Anil Deep Mehel, President of Underwater Sports Association of Ultrakhand, R.K. Singh, coach of Sai Coach, Archana Unnikrishna, General Secretary of Underwater Sports Association of Kerala, Ashish Sarkar, Treasurer of Underwater Sports Association of West Bengal, Mr. Dikshit Rao, Team Incharge of Karnataka, Mr. Balaji Pala, Secretary of Underwater Sports Association of

Andhra Pradesh. Following are the results: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place: 50MTR Bi-Fins Junior C Boys: 1. Aadhidev Pradeep (Ker, 00:24:80 sec), 2. Akshay SD (Ker, 00:24:90 sec), 3. Abhra Metiya (WB, 00:24:96 sec); 50MTR Bi-fins Junior D Boys: 1. Balaji Krishna (Ker, 00:23:93 sec), 2. Budhachandra Nongthombam (Manipur, 00:24:63); 3. Dattaraj Naik (Goa, 00:25:82 sec); 50MTR Bi-Fins Junior E girls: 1. Akshita Mukherjee (WB, 00:29:29 sec), 2. Ashvithaa V (TN, 00:30:00 sec), 3. Nivedya Nitin (Ker, 00:30:59 sec); 50MTR Bi-fins Junior E Boys: 1. Angshuman Nag (WB, 00:29:12 sec), 2. Ashwath Ayyalasomayajula (TS, 00:29:41 sec), 3. Johan PJ (Ker, 00:29:44 sec); 50MTR Bi-Fins Mas-

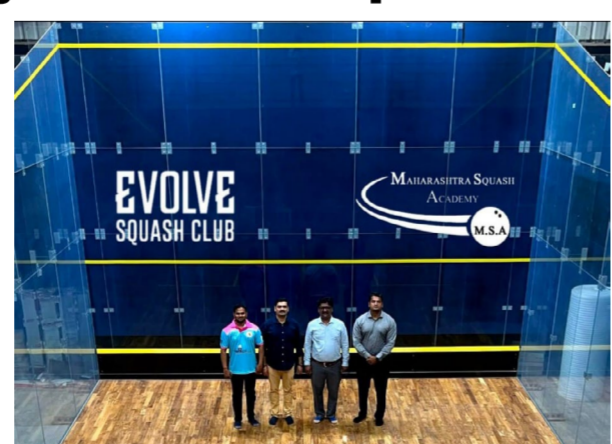


ter V Women: 1. Antara Biswas (WB, 00:31:05 sec), 2. Ritu Banerjee (WB, 00:32:24 sec), 3. Preeti Baghel (Chandigarh, 00:38:10 sec); 50MTR Bi-Fins Master V men: 1. Robin Tushir (Har, 00:25:28 sec), 2. Keisam Ulen (Manipur, 00:26:90 sec), 3. Varun Ramesh (TN, 00:26:96 sec); 50MTR Bi-Fins Master V1 Women: 1. Aiswarya Gupta (WB, 00:31:80 sec), 2. Mithu Metiya (WB, 00:34:57 sec), 3. Samiksha Chourasia (Mah, 00:38:17 sec).

## 550 players for Interdistrict State Squash Championships in City from 8th September

**Pune (Voice news service):-** A total 550 players from over 22 districts in Maharashtra will be seen in action at the Interdistrict Squash Championships being organized by Maharashtra State Rackets Association in association Pooa District Squash Rackets Association and played at Maharashtra Squash Academy and Evolve Squash Courts NIBM Road Pune from 8th to 11th September 2023. Mr. Pradeep Khandre the President of the Maharashtra Squash Rackets Association said that the matches will be played on the newly created 3 Glass courts at the NIBM road. Khandre added that the Maharashtra Squash Racket Association has also launched a Squash Academy at the venue where Ad-

vanced level coaches will impart coaching to players from Maharashtra with a vision to raise the level of the sport at the grassroots level. We are also planning periodic Camps and workshops at the venue. The event is sponsored by Rubabdar and 3 Glass courts created by Acer Sports Floor India. Adv. Anand Lahoti, Secretary of Pooa District Squash Rackets Association, informed that, We have received entries from Pune, Mumbai, Mumbai Sub, Thane, Aurangabad, Nanded, Amravati, Kolhapur, Akola, Jalana, Wardha, Washim, Palghar, Raigad, Dhule, Beed, Jalgaon, Amravati, Sangli, Parbhani, Solapur, Kolhapur, Satara. The players will be seen in action at the event which will



be played in the under 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 boys and girls, Mens and Womens Open Team, Singles and Doubles Categories. The winner and runner up will get trophy, certificates and Points, Mr. Lahoti added. A tournament committee

comprising of Mr. Anand Lahoti, Nakul Chavan, Mr. Kalidas Magar, Satish Potdar, Mr. Kuman Singh Bhati, Mr. Himmat Singh, Mr. Nitesh Potdar and Amit potdar, Priyanka Mantri, has been formed for the smooth conduct of the event.

## LimcaSportz Becomes ICC Men's Cricket World Cup's Official Sports Drink. Launches Yo-Yo Test Challenge

**Pune (Voice news service):-** LimcaSportz, the hydration drink from Coca-Cola India's home-grown brand Limca, becomes the Official Sports Drink of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, a testament of its commitment to supporting athletes and active individuals. Fully geared to kindle the enthusiasm of cricket lovers, the brand has launched Yo-Yo Test challenge, an ultimate test for consumers to track their fitness caliber, further building on LimcaSportz ability to provide advanced hydration. The Yo-Yo test is a comprehensive measure of an individual's aerobic fitness and endurance, and a key component for athletes aiming to perform their best. Leveraging the steadfast fervor of sports aficionados, LimcaSportz digital first Yo-Yo test version will feature India's pride and Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra who will kickstart the campaign on social media. In the latest activation, 'Yo-Yo



test lekeDekhao, World Cup jaane ka Mauka Pao,' consumers can undertake the challenge by scanning the QR code on LimcaSportz bottle and stand a chance to win tickets to World Cup Matches, further building their eagerness and excitement. Speaking about this collaboration, Karthik Subramanian, Director, Marketing - Hydration, coffee and tea category, Coca-Cola India and South-west Asia said, "LimcaSportz is proud to be the Official Sports Drink of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. We're thrilled to support athletes from around the world

with our rehydration drink that has both great taste and functional benefits. The dynamic Yo-Yo test challenge features the incredible Neeraj Chopra, India's first-ever World Athletics Championships gold medalist. Known worldwide for his tenacious spirit and unwavering commitment, he is an ideal choice to kickstart the fitness test." Neeraj Chopra, the renowned Olympic and World Athletics Championships gold medalist, also shared his excitement, on the LimcaSportz Yo-Yo Challenge, stating, "I'm thrilled to be partnering with

LimcaSportz. LimcaSportz is enabling hydration among athletes, which is important to maximize performance and prevent injuries. This challenge is one that promotes efficient performance and motivates each participant to continuously push their boundaries." The Yo-Yo Test Challenge' was conceived by WPP Open X. Commenting on the creative insight behind the campaign, Varun Anchan, creative lead, said "The Yo-Yo test is the ultimate fitness test for cricket, and a standard that athletes including cricketers adhere to as a fitness metric. LimcaSportz is an advanced hydration product that enables athletes to give their best. The idea was born out of the product's functionality, linking it to the Yo-Yo test challenge. With Olympian athlete Neeraj Chopra spearheading the campaign, we are partnering with several athletes & fitness advocates to prep both players and fans for the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup 2023."

## Yodhi Taekwondo Acadamey wins 20 medals in the 16th International Taekwondo Championship



**Pune (Voice news service):-** City-based Yodhi Taekwondo Academy's champions won 20 medals in the 16th International Taekwondo Championship recently held at 'Taekwondwan' in South Korea. This achievement has

made India proud by performing admirably. More than 3000 players from 10 countries participated in this championship. champions from Yodhi Taekwondo Academy bagged a total of 20 medals including five gold, six silver, and nine

bronze in Kyorugi (fight) and Poomsai categories. Under the guidance of Master Rajesh Poojari (5 Dan Black Belt), Founder of Academy Suvarna Joglekar has won two gold medals (Kyorugi & Poomsai), Rama Chidgopkar - Gold in Kyorugi & Bronze in Poomsai, Shibani Mengale - Gold in Poomsai & Bronze in Kyorugi, Kavya Soman - Silver in Kyorugi & Poomsai, Samyak Lahoti - Bronze in Kyorugi & Poomsai, Shlok Sathe - Silver in Poomsai & Bronze in Kyorugi, Nishant Kularni - Silver in Kyorugi & Bronze in Poomsai, Sharva Paranjape - Bronze in Kyorugi & Poomsai, Sai Dahtule

- Silver in Kyorugi & Bronze in Poomsai, Rajas Kaduskar - Gold in Kyorugi & Bronze in Poomsai. 300 students are currently undergoing training in 15 branches of Master Rajesh Pujari's Yodhi Taekwondo Academy in Pune. Suvarna Joglekar of Yodhi Taekwondo Academy got the opportunity to represent India this time under the guidance of Grand Master Chandrakant Bhosle (7 Dan Black Belt) who has been attached to the headquarters of Taekwondo in South Korea for 35 consecutive years. At the age of 42, Joglekar earned gold medals in both categories in this competition.

## Pune to host Wheelchair Rugby Nationals 2023 from 9th September

**Pune (Voice news service):-** The Indian Rugby Football Union (Rugby India), the sole governing body for the sport of Rugby in India, in association with the Wheelchair Rugby Federation of India and Mitsubishi Corporation is hosting the 5th Edition of National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023, and the International Wheelchair Rugby Workshop at the Indoor Hall, Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex at Balewadi in Pune, Maharashtra from 9th to 11th September 2023. The National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 marks a major milestone for Wheelchair rugby in India. With 15 states set to participate, the event is poised to be the largest national Wheelchair event hosted by Rugby India. The states participating include Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ker-

ala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and host, Maharashtra. Rugby India is also pleased to announce the Japan-India Scrum Project for Wheelchair Rugby Development in India. As a part of this initiative that is proudly supported by the Mitsubishi Corporation, the Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation shall host a day-long wheelchair rugby workshop on Saturday, 9th September 2023. Experts from Japan such as Takeshi Shoji, Takayuki Norimatsu, Noriko Nikaido, and Yuki Itzuchi shall work closely with participants from the 15 states as a part of the workshop and coaching clinic. Mr. Hajime Kito, Chief Regional Officer of Mitsubishi Corporation India, shall be attending the workshop. Gerald Prabhu, Hon. Secretary, Rugby India said - "As

the sole governing body for Rugby in India, Wheelchair Rugby is a critical part of IRFU. We remain committed to encourage and assist the efforts of Wheelchair Rugby in India. We are immensely grateful to the Mitsubishi corporation, Rugby Association of Maharashtra, and DSYS, Govt. of Maharashtra, for their continued support in hosting these prestigious workshops and events. We expect to witness some exciting rugby in the days ahead and I would like to extend my best wishes to all participating teams." Nikhil Kumar Gupta, Secretary, Wheelchair Rugby Federation of India said, "We are thankful to Rugby India and the Paralympic Committee of India for their support towards the Wheelchair Rugby Nationals. These efforts, since the past five years, have been instrumental in providing a

platform for our participants to be involved in the sport they love and showcase their skills and abilities, even against the odds. I wish all involved the very best for the tournament." Enclosed below is a schedule for the International Wheelchair Rugby Workshop, followed by the Wheelchair Rugby Nationals Saturday 9th Sept. 2023 10 am to 5 pm International Wheelchair Rugby workshop with Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation Sunday 10th Sept. 2023 9 am to 8 pm. National Wheelchair Rugby Championship - Day 1 1.30 to 2.30 pm Rahul Bose, President, Rugby India will be addressing the participant athletes Monday 11th Sept. 2023 9 to 5.30 pm National Wheelchair Rugby Championship - Day 2 6 to 6.30 pm Medal Ceremony (prize distribution ceremony)

## 10 teams for second edition of the PCBSL (Poona club Billiards and Snooker League)

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Over 65 will represent 10 teams in the second edition of the PCBSL (Poona club Billiards and Snooker League) which will be played at the Poona Club Snooker Hall from 10th to 17th September, 2023



Mr. Sunil Handa President & Vice President Mr. Gaurav Gadhoke of the Poona Club Ltd and Mr. Ranjit Pande tournament director said that, this is the second edition of the PcbSl, this tournament exclusively designed for the members of the Poona club will see top city cueists over decades namely Kapil Punjabi and Vignesh Sanghvi, Sunil Handa, Girish Damle and Suraj Rathi dr Rusi Marolia apart from other 70 players who were selected through an auction which was held on the 4th of September the costliest players who reached the max cap were Kapil

honor for his continuous and selfless contribution to the game of billiards and Snooker, The tournament is also supported by Sanjay and Mukes Sanghvi. Maharashtra no. 5 snooker player Suraj Rathi, Vignesh Sanghvi, Kapil Punjabi were most expensive players in the auction. A special mention to Mr Sunil Handa, President of the Poona club also chairman of Billiards and Snooker department for his endless contributions and support for the past 25 years. The players have been picked by 10 teams, which will fight for the title,

Teams are Manisha Royals (Rajan Khivansara, Abhishek R Khivansara) Manpreet & Gaurav's Jaguars (Manpreet Uppal & Gaurav Ghadoke), Ball Breakers (Vinod Makhija, Aditya Shetty), Parmar all stars (Hiren Parmar, Sanat Parmar), RS cannons (Ricky Rajpal & Sidharth Sanas), Rockets (Rahul Bagga, Vaibhav Shah), Sanghavi Shooters (Sanja & Mukesh Sanghvi) The Whirlwinds (Sahil Handa & Anil Advani) Rack Raiders (Sarim Khan, Rajeev Raut) Torndoes (Jehangir Dorabjee, Daniel Dorabjee). A tournament committee consisting of Sunil Handa chairman, Kapil Punjabi, Vignesh Sanghvi, Suraj Rat lamshed Garda Anish Kerring, and Ranjit Pande has been formed for the smooth conduct of the ever which has been conceptualised and managed by Kara Intellect.

## Dr.Karad dedicated his life to world Peace Feelings of King Hussain

Unveiling of statue of Prof.Dr. Vishwanath Karad at Rajbaug, Loni. International Ahimsa Award 2023 announced to Dr. Vishwanath Karad



**Pune:** MIT Group of Institutions' Rajbaug Campus in Loni Kalbhur witnessed a momentous occasion on Teacher's Day as the bronze statue of educationist and peace ambassador Prof. Dr. Vishwanath Karad was unveiled on Tuesday. King Hussain, President and CEO of Span Construction & Engineering, USA, expressed his admiration, stating that Dr. Karad's statue would inspire all who visit the dome. He said, "Devoting his life to world peace by embracing education and spirituality, Dr. Vishwanath Karad is a unique person. With his inspiration, the entire society will try to walk on the path of peace. His thoughts will lead every person towards peace."

DJ Bowden, founder of Microlin LLC in the USA, along with other prominent figures like Dr. Ashok Joshi, David Hansman, Ronald Gale, Dr. Ram Vilas Vedanti, Mah-

ant Ramdas, Rahul Bhante Bodhi, Isaac Malekar, Dr. Lessons Azadi, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Edison Samraj, Mehr Master Moose, Saheed Aziz Nizami, Maulana Ansari, and Brahmakumari Nilima Didi, graced the occasion with their presence. The event also saw the participation of Prof Dr Vishwanath Karad, the founding president of MIT World Peace University, and Executive President Rahul Vishwanath Karad, alongside the Executive President of MIT ADT University, Prof Dr Mangesh Karad. On this special occasion, Karad was honoured. Furthermore, it was announced that he would receive the prestigious Ahimsa International Award in 2023 from Jain community, a testament to his remarkable contributions to peace and education, announced Dr. Lokesh Muni. King Hussain remarked that unveiling Dr. Karad's statue



on Indian Teachers' Day was a celebration of his exceptional dedication to peace alongside his engineering excellence. Dr. Vishwanath Karad, overwhelmed by the honour, emphasized the importance of understanding life's purpose, future endeavours, and the evolution of education concepts. D. Todd Christopherson acknowledged Dr. Karad's commitment to value-based education, emphasizing that education is the key to success. Brian Brann emphasized, "By blending spirituality and science, Dr. Karad is providing students with the finest education globally. India is poised to become the epicentre of knowledge worldwide. The success of Chandrayaan 3 has significantly altered India's trajectory. The Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which guides our path in life, resonates strongly. Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi, following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru, operates on these very principles." Dr. Ram Vilas Vedanti hailed Dr. Karad as a proponent of religious and national integration, lauding his work in uniting people of all faiths. He highlighted the pride of hosting the G20 Summit in Pune and Delhi. Acharya Lokesh Muni expressed that the G20's initiation in this MIT Peace Dome marked the first step toward sustainable development and emphasized the importance of respecting diverse viewpoints for achieving societal peace. The event continued with Mahant Ramdas of Hanuman Garhi Ayodhya, Bhante Mahathero Rahul, Isaac Malekar, Edison Samraj, and Dr. Mehr Master Moose appreciating Dr. Karad's contributions in their respective speeches. The event was compered by Prof Dr Gautam Bapat, and Ashok Joshi extended the vote of thanks.

## G20 Interfaith Summit Puts NEP in the Spotlight for a Brighter Future

**Pune:** Today marked the commencement of the G20 Interfaith Summit at the MIT World Peace Dome in Pune, heralding the beginning of a profound gathering. The inaugural day of this summit unfolded with a rich tapestry of enlightening breakout sessions, each illuminating critical domains poised for monumental transformation. These sessions delved deep into thought-provoking subjects, such as the intersection of Religion, Ethics, and Technology, the profound influence of business on fostering peace, the empowerment of women, and the profound implications of India's National Education Policy, amongst others.

The highlight of the 1st day of the summit was Indian National Education Policy where different perspectives were shared by various dignitaries like Rev. Prof. Dr. Vishwanath Karad, UNESCO Chair and Founding Chancellor, MIT-WPU, Pune, Bharat, Prof. Dr. Mangesh Karad, Executive President and Vice-Chancellor of MIT ADT University, Pune, India, Mr. Shailendra Sharma (Principal Advisor (Hon) to the Minister and the Director of Education, Government of Delhi), New Delhi, Dr. Faizan Mustafa (Professor, Aligarh

Muslim University; Former Vice-Chancellor of Nalsar University of Law), New Delhi, India, Prof. (Dr.) Ankur A. Kulkarni, Vice Chancellor, SAGE University, Indore, India, Dr. Arun Patil, Vice Chancellor, Chandigarh University, Chandigarh, India, Dr. Rajesh Dixit, Vice Chancellor, Renaissance University, Indore, India, Prof. Gopal Pathak, Vice Chancellor, Sarla Birla University, Ranchi, India, and Dr. M. D. Lawrence, Vice Chancellor, Dr. P.A. Inamdar University, Pune, India.

Mr. Shailendra Sharma (Principal Advisor (Hon) to the Minister and the Director of Education, Government of Delhi), New Delhi, addressed the audience, "There has been strong emphasis on building knowledge and introducing skills but very little is done on building the right values. That has been the missing block. The goal of education is to build knowledge, skills and values but has been limited to only knowledge and skills. Today just a degree is not enough, you need to have analytical skill, problem solving skills, soft skills, etc." Mr. Sharma concluded saying, "India does not need to become vishwaguru, we already are a vishwaguru, what we need is quality education



for our children." Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor & Member, Somaiya University & PERA, Mumbai, India, added, "In a diverse country like India, a national policy is important but state policies are equally important. It should not clash with each other. Technology is coming in a big way and changing the profiles of a classroom. Technology is important but it cannot teach. Teachers can only teach. They need to understand the context of education."

Prof. (Dr.) Ankur A. Kulkarni, Vice Chancellor, SAGE University, Indore, highlighted the importance of regional languages and vernacular implications in education system. Another key highlight session of the day was on Religion, Ethics, and Technology where Hon'ble Manisha Jain, Senior Partner, Architect Azure Machine Learning Platform, Microsoft highlighted that "Technology is advancing at such an astronomical rate, that the responsible



use of it becomes critical." Hon'ble Dr. Deepak M Ranade, World Famous Neurosurgeon, Author of Speaking Tree Column, Times of India, News Daily, Pune concluded, "One of the most attributes of the human brain is the frontal lobes, which gives us the power of restraint and delayed gratification. If you see technology, it is making the human race much more hedonistic, and it is becoming much more of an indulgence." As the curtains fall on the first day of the summit, it leaves us with the promise of a shared vision, a tapestry woven with diverse threads of wisdom and hope. With representatives from India and around the world converging under the same roof, the G20 Interfaith Summit has embarked on a journey towards a better, more harmonious tomorrow, fueled by the insights and collaboration of over 2000 attendees, including a distinguished array of speakers and leaders from various walks of life.

## Union Bank of India and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) enters into an MoU to Boost Renewable Energy Projects

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Union Bank of India (UBI) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaboration and co-operation in various areas of renewable energy and financial assistance. This MoU represents a significant step forward in advancing the goals of sustainable development and renewable energy adoption in India. The MoU was signed in Mumbai today, in the presence of Ms A Manimekhalai, MD&CEO, Union Bank of India & Shri Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA. Also present on the occasion were Shri Nidhu Saxena & Shri Ramasubramanian S, Executive Directors, Union Bank of India, other Senior Executives of the Bank and Shri Bharat Singh Rajput, GM, IREDA. The MoU comes into effect immediately upon signing and is initially valid for a period of five (5) years. It may be extended further upon mutual consent of the Parties involved, highlighting their long-term commitment

to fostering the growth of renewable energy projects in India. Under the terms of the MoU, both Union Bank of India and IREDA have pledged to collaborate on various fronts, including co-originating renewable energy projects, loan syndication and underwriting, management of Third-Party Resources (TRA) for IREDA borrowers, and the potential investment in IREDA Bonds. Specifically, the collaboration encompasses the co-origination of projects in the realm of renewable energy, encompassing Small Hydro projects and Ethanol Projects. Additionally, Union Bank of India and IREDA will work together to facilitate the syndication and underwriting of loans for renewable energy projects, promoting easier access to financial resources for the development of such projects. Union Bank of India will also play a crucial role in managing Third-Party Resources (TRA) for borrowers associated with IREDA, further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of project management.

## Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches 3-year partnership with Meta, Education to Entrepreneurship Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 3-year partnership "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs" between Ministry of Education, Ministry Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Meta in New Delhi. 3 Letters of Intent (LoI) were exchanged between Meta and NIESBUD, AICTE and CBSE, Minister of State for Education Smt. Annpurna Devi and Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar also graced the occasion. Speaking at the event, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said that the initiative launched today is in furtherance to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making India a skill capital of the world and em-

powering our AmritPeedhi. He further said that 'Education to Entrepreneurship' partnership is a game-changer, which will take Digital Skilling to the grassroots. This will build capacities of our talent pool, seamlessly connect students, youth, workforce & micro-entrepreneurs, with futuristic technologies and transform our Amrit Peedhi into new-age problem solvers and entrepreneurs. He stated that India's democracy, demography, and diversity are to be connected with technology conversion so that technology becomes the equalizer for the entire society. Guided by the tenets of NEP, META's partnerships with NIESBUD, CBSE & AICTE will catalyze infinite possibilities for equipping our population with critical digital skills and empowering micro entrepreneurs and small businesses, he added. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, in his address, highlighted the Government's focus on

preparing our youth and workforce in these rapidly transforming times, to be equipped with the skills to succeed and play important roles in the evolving landscape of technology and the global economy. Digital skills, while representing skilling and entrepreneurship in the innovation ecosystem, more importantly represents a bridge between lakhs of small rural, micro and self-employed entrepreneurs, enabling them to expand, grow and succeed, he added. In a video message Meta President, Global Affairs, Sir Nick Clegg, thanked Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for his support in bringing the partnership together between the two most important sectors of the workforce, education and skilling. India's talent base and rapid digital adoption make it the perfect place for us to invest in emerging technologies, he added. He looked forward to Meta's contribution in empowering India's students, young people and entrepreneurs, with significant focus on skill development for Indian startups and businesses, having worked closely with India during its G20 Presidency in areas such as education, job

creation, skill development and user safety. Under the partnership with NIESBUD, 5 lakh entrepreneurs will get access to digital marketing skills by Meta over the next 3 years. Budding and existing entrepreneurs will be trained in digital marketing skills using Meta platforms in 7 regional languages to begin with. Three short films were also showcased highlighting the details about the partnerships. Secretary, Higher Education, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy; Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, MSDE Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari; Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T.G. Sitharam; Chairman, National Educational Technology Forum NBA NAAC, Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe; President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Shri Subhrakant Panda and senior officials of the Ministries, AICTE, CBSE, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD); Shri ShivnathThukral, Director, Public Policy, India and South Asia, Meta and Sandhya Devanathan as the Vice President of Meta India were also present.

## Intercontinental Infrastructure signs Actor Sharad Kelkar as brand ambassador for their project at Chakan, Pune

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Intercontinental Infrastructure, a renowned real estate player in the country has signed up leading Indian actor Sharad Kelkar to be the brand ambassador for its affordable luxury project 'The Urbana' situated at Chakan near Pune. Sharad Kelkar is a well-known Indian film actor who has worked in Marathi and Hindi films. In January 2020, he played the role of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the film Tanhaji and was seen in the 2014 film Lai Bhaari where he played Sangram the main antagonist; which went on to become the highest-grossing Marathi film. Sharad is also a voice artist popularly known for his dubbing in the big budget films like Baahubali: The Beginning, Baahubali 2: The Conclusion and the recent being Adipurush to name a few. He has also appeared as lead in television serials for brief period of time, now he does web series, regional language films in Telugu, Tamil and often dubs Hollywood films. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Srikanth C, Managing Director, Intercontinental Infrastructure said, "We felt that Sharad Kelkar epitomises our project The Urbana and our brand perfectly. Sharad is a versatile actor and has proven his mettle by giving sterling performances in both Marathi and Hindi movies. Our project ca-



ters to the millennials and Sharad comfortably fits as a role model for our home buyers who belong to that segment." The Urbana is a sprawling residential township spanning across 6.5 acres, strategically located in Chakan, Pune. This project comprises of 10 towers in 1, 2 and 3 BHK configurations, offering home buyers a wide range of luxurious amenities in a sustainable environment; but yet at an affordable price point. Chakan as a location is set to become one of the most desirable housing destinations due to a number of planned upcoming infrastructure developments. These include the 18-meter DP road adjacent to the project for enhanced accessibility, proposed Chakan Ring Road, Nashik Phata Rajgurunagar Bypass, proposed metro neo line connecting Nashik Phata to Chakan and the Pune-Nashik semi-high-speed rail line, which will bolster regional connectivity, reducing travel time considerably.

## Mother's Recipe's Sanjana Desai Takes Center Stage as the Strongest Weightlifter at Poona Club Fitness League 2023

**Pune:** In a remarkable display of strength and determination, Sanjana Desai, the Executive Director of Mother's Recipe, has secured her position as the strongest weightlifter across genders at the Poona Club Fitness League 2023. Her exceptional Wilks Score of 304 not only earned her the title but also surpassed the strength of all male competitors. The Wilks score is used to compare the weight lifted in powerlifting between lifters of varying body weights and genders. She pushed her limits, setting new personal records and achieving an impressive Wilks score - the highest among all participants, regardless of gender. Sanjana Desai's astounding achievement highlights her commitment to breaking barriers and dedication to fitness. Her performance serves as an inspiration to all, proving that strength knows no gender boundaries. She has not only conquered the weights but also shattered stereotypes, exemplifying the power of passion and perseverance.

"My contribution to the company's mission goes beyond just business; it aligns with a greater purpose. My personal life goals seamlessly in-

tertwine with the company's mission. Fitness, to me, epitomizes dedication, discipline, and consistency. In both the business world and the realm of fitness, women often feel constrained by perceived limitations in strength. I want to challenge those limitations and prove that 'I can, SHE can.'" Sanjana Desai, Executive Director, Mother's Recipe. Just two years ago, Sanjana Desai embarked on her strength training journey under Vishal Seth's guidance at 27 Brick House, Pune's vibrant performance gym. This transformative experience highlighted the profound link between physical fitness and mental well-being. For Sanjana, the collaborative spirit she shares with her trainer mirrors the culture she aims to cultivate in her business at Mother's Recipe - one of teamwork, support, and shared success, where personal and professional growth flourish hand in hand. As a leader in the food industry Sanjana Desai's victory reinforces the importance of balance in a healthy lifestyle. Her success story demonstrates that leadership, determination, and a commitment to well-being can coexist,

setting a powerful example for women and men alike.



## Škoda Auto India rings in the festivities with new variants of the Kushaq and Slavia

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Škoda Auto India, makers of the safest, highest-rated, crash-tested cars in India, have announced two new product actions with the Kushaq Onyx Plus and the Slavia Ambition Plus. Both variants feature festive pricing, attractive new exchange benefits, and special corporate plans, all for a limited period. The Kushaq Onyx Plus boasts all-new R16 Grus alloys and a Window Chrome Garnish. The front grille ribs and the trunk garnish at the rear are now finished in chrome.



The Onyx Plus will be powered by the 1.0 TSI engine mated to a manual transmis-

sion. The Kushaq Onyx Plus is priced at Rs 11.59\* lakh and

will be available exclusively in Candy White and Carbon Steel colours. The Slavia Ambition Plus is adorned with a Chrome Package for the front grille, lower door, and trunk garnish. The car will feature an in-built dashcam and is available in all-existing colour options. Like the Kushaq Onyx Plus, the Slavia Ambition Plus will also be exclusive with the 1.0 TSI engine. Customers can choose between a 6-speed manual and automatic transmission Options. The Slavia Ambition Plus is available at special festive price of Rs 12.49\* lakh.

## IIT-Delhi Concludes Poker and Rummy are Games of Skill

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Distinguished IIT-Delhi professor Tapan K. Gandhi, Cadence Chair Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Automation along with his team recently conducted an extensive study affirming that Poker and Rummy are games of skill. The study "Online Poker and Rummy- Game of Skill or Chance?" reinforces the importance of cognitive and other skills required for success in Poker and Rummy. It

further analysed the impact of experience and learnable skills in the game and the role it plays in the player's long-term success in the Sport. Commenting on the report, Tapan K. Gandhi, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Cadence Chair Professor of AI and Automation, IIT Delhi said, "Amidst ongoing conversations around online gaming and biased perception terming it as a taboo w-

ing to preconceived notions, the exhaustive study examines the gameplay of various players to understand if the game in reality focuses on skill or element of luck prevails. Deepak Dhayanithy, Associate Professor, Strategic Management, IIM Kozhikode who was instrumental in publishing an earlier report verifying Poker as game of skill shared his views on the research, "In the realm of online card games like Poker and Rum-

my, the analysis leaves no room for doubt: skill, not chance, is the driving force behind long-term success. The IIT study provides a quantitative analysis using mathematical tools to determine whether long-term success in online poker and rummy can be attributed to skill. The data was analysed covering larger set of user data who had played between 30 to 100 games in 2-player, 3-player, and 6-player formats

## NEW VICTORINOX SHOP-IN-SHOP AT PHOENIX MALL OF THE MILLENIUM, WAKAD, PUNE

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Iconic Swiss brand Victorinox has opened its doors with another shop-in-shop at Gute Reise, Ground Floor, Phoenix Mall of the Millennium, Wakad, Pune. The Victorinox range of products can be experienced at the new shop located in the heart of Pune. With this step Victorinox is expanding its footprint in India following the successful opening of its flag-

ship store in Mumbai's Palladium Shopping Mall, back in May 2022. The sprawling Phoenix Mall of the Millennium all is located on the outskirts of Pune and offers a delightful mix of retail, dining, and entertainment. The Victorinox shop-in-shop welcomes guests with its inviting entrance where the impressive range of Victorinox Swiss Army Knives, travel gear, watches, kitchen and

professional knives are immaculately presented. The new Gute Reise store at this exciting new mall also stocks a range of travel gear from Victorinox's sister brand Wenger, which offers quality travel gear at a lower price point. "With the Victorinox Shop-in-shop concept we are bringing an extremely popular, brand to the vibrant city of Pune," says Mr. Colonel Chandhoke,

Managing Director - Victorinox India. "We are excited and look forward to offering our customers a unique Swiss experience from Victorinox at this prime location. We currently have 16 stores that house Victorinox shop-in-shops with 3 or more product categories. We plan to further strengthen our India presence with 9 more stores in the multi-product category by the end of the year."

## Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) to train 25,000 women in financial and digital literacy

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB), one of India's leading FMCG companies, has announced that it will provide financial and digital literacy training to 25,000 women across the country. The company has partnered with the Y4D foundation for this initiative, which will equip women from diverse backgrounds in different locations and bridge the skills gap in financial and technological knowledge. The financial literacy training will cover fundamental concepts like Banking Basics, Account Opening procedures, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) training, Investment Guidance, Net Banking, and information on various Government Schemes for women such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana Nari Shakti. On the

other hand, the digital literacy component will encompass topics such as Mobile Banking, Digital Market Linkage, and Cyber Safety and Security to equip these women with the necessary tools to succeed in the digital era. The training will be conducted in a classroom-based format in identified locations nationwide. The beneficiaries will be identified and trained in groups based on their interests, needs, and current digital and financial literacy levels. The effort is aimed at promoting a more concentrated and efficient learning experience. On this initiative, Himanshu Priyadarshi, Chief Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability Officer, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, said, "A key element of the culture at HCCB is to ensure an equitable environment, not only

for our employees but also the communities in which we operate. By boosting these women's financial literacy and digital competence, we hope to contribute to the country's economic growth. We believe that the financial and digital inclusion of underserved women is essential to unlock the economic potential of India. This effort also aligns with PM Modi's recent call for women-led development and the importance of technology in fostering inclusivity and driving positive change in his several G20 addresses." Further elaborating on the project, Gaurav Sharma, Chief People Officer, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, said, "At HCCB, people are at the core of what we do, whether it's our employees or the communities in which we operate. For us, empowering women isn't confined

to HCCB as an organization but extends far beyond society, thus creating sustainable progress. The training sessions will work as impactful conduits to uplift and equip these 25,000 women with the required digital and financial skills and create a ripple effect of positive change in the larger community. We're glad to play a part in creating a more empowered, inclusive, and resilient society." Through this endeavour, HCCB aspires to support women, enabling them to take charge of their financial independence and embrace the opportunities the government and digital world offer. HCCB has facilitated several women-led self-help groups countrywide, empowering them to run their enterprises today. HCCB aspires to create more entrepreneurs through this drive.

## IBM renews collaboration with IIT-B and IISc, Bangalore to drive hybrid cloud & artificial intelligence (AI) innovation including generative AI

**Pune (Voice news service):-** IBM (NYSE: IBM) renewed its research collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore to transform and drive breakthrough innovations in the field of hybrid cloud and artificial intelligence (AI). IIT Bombay joined the IBM AI Horizon Network in 2018 to advance AI research in India and in 2021, IBM and IISc Bangalore launched the IBM-IISc Hybrid Cloud lab to advance research in hybrid cloud technologies and drive breakthrough innovations in this area. Through the collaboration, IBM aims to drive innovation and provide practical solutions to complex global challenges by tapping the intellectual talent of students, faculty and industry researchers. By pushing the boundaries of knowledge and exploring new approaches, the project seeks to enhance various aspects of technology and contribute to a more advanced and efficient future. The collaborations will focus on several areas including: 'Extending the prior research in natural language processing and question answering, while striving to provide more

comprehensive and accurate responses. In terms of performance optimization, the major focus will be on achieving fast and efficient results when performing inferencing on devices such as smartphones and in hybrid cloud environments. 'Machine learning for time series involving deep generative AI models for multi-variate data, and self-supervised representation learning models. These innovations can bring the power of foundation models and generative AI to multiple application areas such as health care, Industry 4.0 and smarter cities. 'Creating sophisticated computer programs that can detect and explain fake news and half-truths using advanced Artificial Intelligence techniques. The aim is to improve upon the earlier research on biases and trust in AI, making sure that false information is accurately identified and thoroughly explained. 'Building new technologies to orchestrate and optimize workloads in a hybrid cloud environment, including edge clouds, quantum-classical, and serverless. The goal will be to leverage observability and analytics capabilities spanning the hybrid multi-cloud environment to

efficiently manage resources and seamlessly orchestrate workloads, to improve the performance and reliability of applications. 'Developing techniques for sustainable computing, involving devising methods to accurately quantify and optimize carbon emissions for hybrid cloud workloads and studying emerging architectures for their performance-power tradeoff. "The synergy between the abundant talent in IIT Bombay and a technological leader like IBM can not only expand the horizons of knowledge but also address problems of national importance, such as affordable healthcare, educational outreach, and smart management of growing industrial and urban infrastructure," added Prof. Sachin Patwardhan, Dean (R&D), IIT Bombay. "The engagement with IBM researchers is helping us explore some of the practical dimensions of the research challenges in Cloud platforms and sustainability, and investigate the means to democratize access to quantum hardware in the Cloud for scientific and enterprise applications. Our doctoral students also appreciate the chance to en-

gage with leading researchers and practitioners from IBM Research," said Prof. Yogesh Simmhan, Associate Professor, Department of Computational and Data Sciences, IISc. The collaboration with IISc is led by Prof. Simmhan, along with faculty members Dr. J. Lakshmi (Supercomputer Education and Research Centre), Prof. Parimal Parag (Department of Electrical Communication Engineering) and Prof. Prathosh AP (Department of Electrical Communication Engineering). Speaking on the collaborations, Dr. Amith Singhee, Director IBM Research India said, "Collaboration fuels innovation, and our collaboration with IIT Bombay and IISc Bangalore underscores the importance of combining diverse expertise. By merging IBM's technological prowess with the cutting-edge research skills of these prestigious institutions, we foster a collaborative ecosystem that pushes the boundaries of scientific discovery. Together, we strive to explore new horizons and address pressing challenges, empowering India's research community to create tangible impact and shape a brighter future for all."

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Honoured with Prestigious Export Excellence Award at FKCCI Star Export Awards 2023

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), announced that has been bestowed with the esteemed Export Excellence Award at the FKCCI Star Export Awards 2023, organized by the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI). The event, held in Bangalore, recognized outstanding performers across various sectors, emphasizing their contribution to the state's as well as nation's economy and their dedication to excellence in performance. TKM's performance in the Engineering products sector earned the company the coveted STAR EXPORTER AWARD (Merchant Category-Silver) for the export performance year during 2022-23. In addition, recently TKM was honoured with the prestigious 'State Export Excellence Award' in the Auto & Components category by the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC). The recognitions underscore



TKM's unwavering dedication to achieving export excellence, showcasing its capability to compete on a global level with the highest standards of quality and innovation. Mr. Arun Velayudhan, Vice President - Finance, Indirect Taxation & Impex, TKM, accepted the award on behalf of Toyota Kirloskar Motor from Shri MB Patil, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, Government of Karnataka. This momentous occasion highlighted the collaborative efforts of TKM and its commitment to contribute to the growth of Karnataka's industrial landscape. Speaking on the occasion, Mr.

Swapnesh R Maru, Executive Vice President, and Chief Compliance Officer at TKM said, "We are immensely proud and honoured to receive the Export Excellence Award from the esteemed Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI). This recognition is a testament to our unwavering commitment to deliver excellence in all aspects of our operations. At TKM, we have always strived to push the boundaries of innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. This award fuels our drive to continuously raise the bar, develop an ecosystem for advanced technologies that

contributes to the Karnataka's and India's manufacturing industry. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated team members, stakeholders, and customers for their continuous support in our journey towards excellence." The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) Star Export Awards are a symbol of distinction, celebrating businesses that have showcased exemplary growth, innovation, and contribution to the Indian economy through their export endeavours. TKM has been bestowed with export excellence award many times in the previous years. The company's commitment to quality, innovation, and sustainable practices has played a pivotal role in positioning the company as a key player in the automotive sector. This prestigious award reinforces TKM's commitment to excellence and highlights its contribution to the growth of the engineering sector.

## Tata Motors partners with Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited to develop a 12 MWp solar project at its Pune manufacturing facility

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Reiterating Tata Group's vision of preserving environmental sustainability with its unique manufacturing practices, Tata Motors and Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), a leading player in the renewable energy sector and a subsidiary of Tata Power have entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to develop a new 12MWp on-site solar project at Tata Motors' Pune commercial vehicle manufacturing facility. A significant step towards attaining green manufacturing, the installation is collectively expected to generate 17.5 million units of electricity every year, which will meet nearly 17.2% of the annualized requirement, po-

tentially mitigating over 12,400 tonnes/kWh of carbon emission each year. The solar project is to be commissioned within six months after the PPA gets signed and will be a significant contributor to Tata Motors' long-term ambitions. The PPA will include rooftop installations. This 12MWp adds to existing 8.73 MWp summing to 20.73 MWp for Tata Motors across CVBU (Commercial vehicle), Pune. Over the next few years, the company plans to expand the solar capacity of its Pune plant to meet the growing demand for renewable energy. Mr. Vishal Badshah, Vice President, Commercial Vehicle Operations, Tata Motors Limited, commenting on the project said, "Tata Motors is

dedicated to sustainability, aiming for net-zero emissions. Our strategy includes increasing the use of renewable energy through on-site and off-site measures to decarbonize our plants. This collaboration with Tata Power for solar facility in Pune exemplifies our commitment to greener and more efficient operations. As a 'Future Ready' company and a RE100 signatory, we are actively transitioning to renewable energy sources and this partnership marks a significant step toward our goal." Mr. Ashish Khanna, CEO, Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, commenting on the partnership, "Signing of 12MWp PPA with Tata Motors underlines our critical step forward on the shared goals of

Tata Power Renewables and Tata Motors for a sustainable future. We are committed to support the energy transition of our C&I consumers through a bouquet of our clean energy solutions." Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited and Tata Motors have previously collaborated to develop a 16MWp solar power project in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, which is slated to be the largest in terms of capacity in the state. Tata Power is India's Largest Integrated Power Company, present across the entire power value chain of conventional & renewable energy, power services and next-generation customer solutions including solar rooftop and EV charging stations.

## Honda Cars India launches Honda ELEVATE in India: a new chapter in Urban SUV excellence, starting at an introductory price of INR 10,99,900

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Honda Cars India Limited, a leading manufacturer of premium cars in India, today announced the launch of its latest global SUV, the Honda Elevate. The vehicle will be available at an introductory starting price of INR 10,99,900 (ex-showroom, Delhi) to INR 15,99,900 (ex-showroom, Delhi) for the top variant. Deliveries of the Elevate will begin from today across dealerships in the country. Elevate demonstrates all the essential attributes of dynamism, bold styling, comfort and safety and made its global debut earlier in June this year. The Honda Elevate, developed under the grand concept of 'Urban Freestyler', is designed to appeal to customers with active lifestyles and a global mindset. Developed by the Honda R&D Asia Pacific centre located in Thailand, the all-new Elevate caters to the needs and aspirations of younger customers who seek status, comfort, and an active lifestyle. With dimensions of 4312mm length, 1790mm width, 1650mm height, 2650mm wheelbase and a top-class ground clearance



the Elevate merges style and practicality seamlessly. Speaking about the India launch of the much-awaited SUV, Mr. Takuya Tsumura, President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd., said, "Today marks an exciting chapter as we launch the strongly anticipated mid-size SUV, the Honda Elevate, in the Indian market. Since its global debut, Elevate has garnered exceptional admiration and acceptance from customers. We are delighted to unveil its pricing for the eagerly waiting Indian audience. The Elevate's development is a testament to extensive research and invaluable customer feedback. This positions the Elevate as a boldly stylish SUV that prioritizes a comfortable in-cabin experi-

ence along with exceptional driving dynamics and safety." Mr. Tsumura further added, "With the Honda Elevate, we make a foray into one of the most exciting auto segments in India. The tremendous anticipation surrounding this product underscores the trust our customers have in our offerings. Honda Elevate holds the potential to become key pillar of Honda's business in India, offering remarkable value to our evolving customers." The Elevate is powered by 1.5L i-VTEC DOHC petrol engine generating 89 kW (121 PS) power and 145 Nm torque, paired with a 6-speed Manual Transmission and a 7-speed Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) for a smooth and enjoyable driv-

ing experience and offering fuel efficiency of 15.31 kmpl\* and 16.92 kmpl\* respectively. Honda Elevate is E20 material compatible (up to 20% Ethanol Blended Petrol). The Honda Elevate boasts a bold and masculine exterior design, characterized by a striking front fascia, sharp character lines, and a distinctive rear layout that commands a formidable road presence. Inside, the design aligns with the theme of "Progressive and Protective," embodying an ambitious spirit, comfort, practicality, and a secure cabin. Adhering to Honda's philosophy of "Man Maximum and Machine minimum", the Elevate offers an impressively roomy interior, featuring a top-class wheelbase, ample headroom, knee room, legroom, and a class-leading cargo area. Personalized Dynamic Dashboard with shortcut widget on screen, Digitalized Service Pick-up & Drop Facility, Additional reward points on Fuel Pay through HPLC network, Buy and sell pre-owned Car, Integration of Accessories - TPMS# (Tyre Pressure Monitoring System) & DVR# (Drive View Recorder).

## Make This Festive Season Extra Special with MG ASTOR "BLACKSTORM" Limited Edition starting at 14,47,800 INR ex-showroom price

**Pune (Voice news service):-** MG Motor India, a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, today launched the BLACKSTORM edition of the MG ASTOR - India's Most Advanced SUV in its class. With the BLACKSTORM edition, MG India offers its customers yet another stylish option to choose from the popular MG Astor range. It offers a captivating appeal to customers who are looking for a Bold, Sophisticated, and Stylish SUV. The ASTOR BLACKSTORM limited edition comes with a panoramic skyroof, an All-Black Honeycomb pattern Grille, Black alloy wheels with red front brake callipers, black finish Headlamps, glossy Black Door Garnish and Black Finish Roof Rails that amp up the overall look of ASTOR BLACKSTORM. The



SUV has the 'BLACKSTORM' emblem\* on its front fenders on both sides. The interior of the model commands aesthetic appeal with a Tuxedo Black Upholstery with red stitching, Sangria red-themed AC Vents, an all-black Floor Console, steering wheel and doors with red stitches. The ASTOR BLACKSTORM also comes with JBL speakers\* and customer can get them fitted 'at all authorized MG

dealerships pan India. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Deputy Managing Director, MG Motor India, said, "As the whole country preps up for the upcoming festive season, we at MG Motor India, want to ensure that our customers feel extra special with the Astor's latest limited edition - BLACKSTORM. It has a premium finish with a bold and distinctive

design that is sure to win our customers' heart as they look to upgrade their existing vehicles with tech-enabled cars that are not only futuristic but also delivers a superior driving experience. Astor is the first car to get a personal AI assistant in the company's global portfolio. The Autonomous Level 2 MG Astor is powered by mid-range radars and a multi-purpose camera that can realize a series of advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS). Since its launch in 2021, Astor has been creating memories of a lifetime for our customers. With best-in-class tech, Digital Car Key, 49+ Safety and i-SMART features, MG Astor has truly captured the hearts of tech-savvy consumers who are looking for automotive innovations that deliver a fulfilling driving experience.

## Kinetic Green partners with Axis Bank to offer financing solutions for two-wheeler Electric Vehicles

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions Limited, a leading manufacturer of electric two- and three-wheelers in India, today announced its strategic partnership with Axis Bank one of India's largest private sector banks, to offer accessible and cost-effective financing options to its two-wheeler electric vehicle (EV) customers. The MOU was signed by Mr. Ritesh Mantri, Co-Founder and Director - Kinetic Green and Mr. Irfan Tamboli, Senior Vice President and Head - Supply Chain Finance, Axis Bank. Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Founder and CEO of Kinetic Green, stated, "We are de-

lighted to collaborate with one of India's largest and most reputed banks, Axis Bank. Just as customer satisfaction is a top priority for Axis Bank, it holds similar importance for us at Kinetic Green. Together, we aim to provide the best EV financing solutions to the nation, enabling the realization of the dream of sustainable mobility. I am also pleased to announce that this scheme will be extended to our highly anticipated two-wheeler, E-Luna. With this alliance, we are confident in reaching our advanced yet affordable EVs to customers across urban and rural landscapes of India, thus accelerating the widespread adoption of electric

vehicles." Commenting on the strategic tie-up with Kinetic Green, Mr. Sumit Bali, Group Executive, Head - Retail Lending and Payments, Axis Bank, said, "We are glad to partner with Kinetic Green, one of the industry leaders in this space all set to revolutionize the EV industry in India. Green mobility is the need of the hour and each step taken in protecting the future generations of the country. Axis Bank is deeply committed towards driving the objectives of Green Mobility and Green Financing, and through this partnership we will continue to promote sustainable prac-

tics and encourage adoption of electric vehicles amongst the masses." Customers across regions will benefit from this remarkable initiative, especially in the upcoming festivals including Raksha Bandhan, Ganesh Utsav, Navratri, Dussehra and Diwali

