



## Duolingo's Latest Music and Math Join the Learning Journey

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Duolingo (NASDAQ:DUOL), the world's leading mobile learning platform, shares its latest product vision that harnesses its proven, gamified teaching methods to expand to new subjects: Music and Math. Company leaders debut the new experiences at Duocon, the largest free global event at the intersection of language, learning, and technology.

"Duocon is about celebrating our millions of dedicated learners worldwide," says Luis von Ahn, co-founder and CEO. "We are focused on building the best education possible and making it universally available. With our expansion into Music and our updates to Math, we're one step closer to that goal."

Expanding beyond language In a headline talk, Severin Hacker, co-founder and CTO, delves into the company's expansion into Math and Music, subjects that transcend cultures and people, just like language. He details updates to the Math course, which will include more advanced real-world math skills, including calculating tips and hourly wage, to sharpen adult learners' mental math. And Engineering Director Vanessa Jameson offers a look under the hood of Duolingo's brand-new Music course. Jameson shares how the company approached music education while maintaining Duolingo's signature, gamified interface.

Teaching better English is the number one language learned on Duolingo because English proficiency often opens doors to better job or education opportunities. To help these learners advance towards their goals, Duolingo announces a new Immersive Learning Experience for Advanced English, a curriculum designed for English learners

at more advanced levels of language proficiency. Bozena Pajak, VP of Learning and Curriculum, also walks audiences through the Duolingo Method, Duolingo's proven teaching principles that guide content creation, lesson design, and course development. Learning experts unveil new features designed to improve learning outcomes in some of our biggest courses, including:

- DuoRadio, dynamic, podcast-style audio lessons in select language courses.
- A game-changing tool for learning the unique writing systems of Japanese and Mandarin, some of the fastest-growing languages on the app.

More fun than ever Duolingo's global community of more than 74 million monthly active learners complete 9 billion exercises a week. Product experts at Duolingo reveal upcoming features and content designed to make learning on the new multi-subject app even more delightful, such as:

- Adventures, a new mini-game where learners play as Duolingo characters and put their language skills to the test in interactive scenarios.
- A new season of The Duolingo French Podcast, hosted by Oscar-winning actress Ariana DeBose, tells the untold story of 1920s dance icon Josephine Baker—who was also a spy for the French Resistance.

An exclusive interview with Malala And finally, Duolingo co-founder and CEO, Luis von Ahn, hosts a wide-ranging conversation with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai about her work advocating for the right of all children to education.

For more information on the talks and product announcements, tune in at duolingo.com/duocon.

## Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses students live at the second 'Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh'

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed students live at the second 'Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh' – Annual Skill Convocation Ceremony – on 12th October 2023 organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, graced the event. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Shri K Sanjay Murthy; Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari; Chairman, National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), Shri Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi; Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T. G. Sitharam; Chairman, UGC, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar; other officials, dignitaries and students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that this festival of skill development is unique in itself and today's event of joint convocation of skill development institutions across the country is a very commendable initiative. He said that Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh reflects the priorities of today's India. Acknowledging the presence of thousands of youth connected with this event through technology, the Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes to all the youth.

Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted the importance of the power of youth in utilizing the strengths of any country such as its natural or mineral resources, or its long coastlines and said that the country develops more with stronger youth power thereby doing justice to the nation's resources. Today, the Prime Minister emphasized that a similar thinking is empowering



India's youth which is making unprecedented improvements in the entire ecosystem. "In this, the country's approach is two-pronged", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also underlined that the Government is establishing a large number of new medical colleges, and skill development institutes like IITs, IIMs or ITIs, and mentioned the cores of youth who have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. On the other hand, the Prime Minister stated that traditional sectors which provide jobs are also being strengthened while new sectors that promote employment and entrepreneurship are also being promoted.

"Today, the whole world is of the belief that this century is going to be India's century", the Prime Minister said as he credited the young population of India for this. Shri Modi underlined that when the elderly population is increasing in many countries of the world, India is getting younger with each passing day. "India has this huge advantage", he stressed as he noted the world looking towards India for its skilled youth. He informed that India's proposal regarding global skill mapping has been recently accepted at the G20 Summit, which will help in creating better opportunities for youth in the coming times. The Prime Minister suggested not wasting any opportunity being created and assured that the Government is ready to support the cause. Shri Modi pointed out the neglect towards skill development in the previous governments and said, "Our government understood the importance of skill and created a separate Ministry for it and allocated a separate budget."

He underlined that India is investing more in the skills of its youth than ever before and gave the example of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana which has strengthened the youth at the ground level. Under this scheme, the Prime Minister informed that about 1.5 crore youth have been trained so far. He further added that new skill centers are also being established near industrial clusters, which will enable the industry to share its requirements with skill development institutes, thereby developing the necessary skill sets among the youth for better employment opportunities.

"The scope of skill development is continuously increasing in India. We are not limited to just mechanics, engineers, technology, or any other service", the Prime Minister said as he mentioned that women's self-help groups are being prepared for drone technology. Stressing the importance of Vishwakarmas in our everyday life, Shri Modi mentioned PM Vishwakarma Yojana which enables the Vishwakarmas to link their traditional skills with modern technology and tools.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister stressed making India the biggest centre of skilled manpower in the world in order to provide smart and skilled manpower solutions. "The process of learning, teaching and moving forward should continue. May you be successful at every step in life", the Prime Minister concluded.

Shri Pradhan also mentioned that NEP 2020 has formalized skill training by introducing it to the education system from Class VI onwards. NEP emphasises on integration of schooling and skilling, he highlighted. The teaching-learning material

for classes III, IV, V, VI, IX and XI will also be available by the next academic year, he added. He also mentioned how emerging and applied areas such as semiconductor will be integrated into the school curriculum and efforts are being made to create new opportunities and meet the skilling needs of the diverse and talented Yuva Shakti. He highlighted that, as announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August 2023, 15000 women will be receiving drones for use in precision and pointed agriculture.

Shri Pradhan also highlighted that the inclusion of women in the skill ecosystem has increased significantly due to the introduction of developmental schemes such as Ujjwala, housing schemes, health benefits etc. He pointed that India's unemployment rate has declined from 6% in 2017 to 3.2% in 2022-23. During the same period 1.5 crore citizens have been added to the skilling ecosystem, he also mentioned.

Shri Chandrasekhar, in his address, congratulated the recipients of the certificates and marked it be one of the most inspiring and energizing days. He expressed his gratitude for crafting and creating a future for the youth of the country. He also mentioned how the Prime Minister's vision to create a Viksit Bharat for every youth of the country regardless of their economic condition or location will be possible by skilling them. He also mentioned that in 2014, out of the 40 crore workforce of the country, almost 30 crore lacked formal training, which has changed drastically by the launching of Skill India by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Chandrasekhar also mentioned that acquiring these skills will be the 'Passport to prosperity' for our youth. Among all the programs by the Government of India, skilling holds the potential to enable our vast population of Young Indians to create a stronger and better future for themselves, unlike any other time in the history of independent India, he added.

## World Mental Health Day

Ms. Shaina Ganapathy, Head of Community Outreach, Embassy Group.

**Pune (Voice news service):-** "World Mental Health Day encourages us to consider the often-overlooked challenges that many individuals face in silence as a collective responsibility.

At the heart of outreach lies a commitment to the well-being of people. This day calls upon businesses to prioritise mental health initiatives, foster inclusive workplaces, and erase the stigma surrounding mental health challenges. We, as corporate leaders, have a profound role to play in not only providing support to our employees but also in promoting awareness and understanding.

At Embassy, we work towards uplifting the students at our adopted government schools through various initiatives in education and health. After the COVID-19 pandemic and the mass closures of schools, students and schools struggled to address their emotional and psychological needs.

Providing support during this challenging period, Embassy has instituted several programmes, including an expressive art movement therapy project we piloted in partnership with Studio For Movement Arts & Therapy, called "Swayam." Our primary objectives with Swayam are to facilitate authentic self-discovery, promote overall well-being, build resilience, and enable students to identify and access the support they require.

In addition to Swayam, we believe in the transformative power of the arts and

crafts. We strive to enhance students' creativity and fine motor skills across 15 government schools while seamlessly integrating academic concepts into the learning process. Moreover, we've initiated a unique weaving programme, employing upcycled sarees, to provide targeted support to students dealing with behavioural issues.

Furthermore, our commitment to the holistic development of government school students extends to sports programmes that are designed not only to improve physical fitness but also to instil essential values such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. We rigorously assess students' progress in these areas through the lens of social-emotional learning, utilising observable skills and mentor observations.

Finally, we have also partnered with United Efforts to uplift and hand-hold students through mentorship and career counselling. This has helped students gain a sense of direction and reduce anxiety about their futures.

However, more needs to be done. It's time for us to join hands, advocate for policy changes, allocate resources, and pave the way for a future where mental health care is a fundamental right for every citizen.

On this World Mental Health Day, let us commit to working tirelessly towards a society where mental health is prioritised, stigma is erased, and support is readily available to all those in need."

## Global India Business Forum hosted a historic India-Africa Business Conclave Following the African Union's G20 Membership



**Pune (Voice news service):-** The Global India Business Forum (GIBF), a leading global business networking organization, marked a significant milestone in strengthening India's ties with Africa by hosting the largest-ever India-Africa Business Conclave recently (6th & 7th October). The event took place at the picturesque Joshi Farms and Resorts in Pune, India.

Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chair of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly inaugurated the event in the esteemed presence of ambassadors from 17 African countries and around 800 plus business-people, exporters, importers, and investors.

Dr. Jitendra Joshi, Founder and President of GIBF, along with Secretary General, Deepali Gadkari, and Director Abhishek Joshi were present

on the occasion. The 800-plus delegates included exporters, importers, traders, and investors from sectors like agriculture, education, health (medicine and pharmaceutical), mining, textile, food and food processing, hospitality (restaurants, hotels), travel and tourism, gems and jewelry, information technology, electronic and electrical, automobile, FMCG, infrastructure, logistics, iron and steel, renewable energy, news and entertainment, oil and gas, and others.

During the conclave, Dr. Neelam Gorhe emphasized Africa's prominence as the most happening and sought-after region in the world, teeming with untapped business opportunities. More than 17 African countries' ambassadors and high commissions have participated and they have presented various

business opportunities in African countries. Dr. Gorhe said, "Africa is the most happening and sought-after country by the entire world at present with ample business opportunities. GIBF will be aiding exporters, importers, traders, and entrepreneurs of India to explore the untapped opportunities in these countries." She congratulated GIBF for its unique initiative and assured the African ambassadors of the Indian government's support.

The event featured engaging presentations by African ambassadors, B2B meetings, and enlightening panel discussions. GIBF pledged its commitment to assist Indian exporters, importers, traders, and entrepreneurs in exploring these vast and promising markets. The event featured engaging presentations by African ambassadors, B2B meetings, and enlightening panel discussions.

Dr. Jitendra Joshi in his address, congratulated the African Union leaders and the countries along with the ambassadors for becoming part of the G20 Countries with great efforts by India. Dr. Joshi highlighted the India-Africa Business Conclave as a vital bridge fostering robust trade partnerships, exploration of export-import opportunities,

and unlocking the immense potential for economic growth and collaboration between the two vibrant markets. He also emphasized the future business growth between India and Africa & he gave the mantra, 'Grow Together.' Dr. Joshi said, "This conclave serves as a bridge to foster robust trade partnerships, explore export-import opportunities, and unlock the immense potential for economic growth and collaboration between these two vibrant markets."

GIBF's mouthpiece, The Business Tycoons, featuring success stories about the delegates and information about the African countries was inaugurated by the dignitaries. The India-Africa Business Conclave, following the African Union's membership in the G20, not only re-affirmed India's commitment to strengthening its bonds with African nations but also provided a platform for fruitful dialogue, networking, and collaboration.

GIBF looks forward to nurturing these partnerships further in the future. The vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Deepali Gadkari. She extended her heartfelt thanks, acknowledging the ambassadors' valuable presence and insights, and participants' support.

## Team Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) wins Pune round of Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2023

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) won the 1st round of the Pune qualifying round of the intercollegiate Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2023, held recently at the Engineering College Pune.

The winning team Sagnik Sarkar, Dev Dileep Nair and Ritwik Johari did their institute proud by answering the wide array of questions on the Nobel prizes and Sweden and will now represent the city at the National Finals which will be held at New Delhi on October 31, 2023.

Ms. Elin Westher, Consul, Consulate General of Sweden handed out the prizes at the quiz competition which saw avid quizzers from across reputed colleges and technical institutes of the city and from nearby areas.

Aditya Jaya Palan, Balmik Shyamal and Vedant Shekhar Jha also from the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) won the 2nd position and in the 3rd position was Bandana Mishra, Kinshuk Agarwal and Ayushi Agarwal from Symbiosis Law School. The quiz competition will now proceed to the remaining



qualifying rounds in Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai and finally in New Delhi.

The prize for National quiz champions is a weeklong trip to Sweden. The winners will get to visit the headquarters of some of the partnering companies, Swedish universities and the Nobel Museum. All participants of the quiz got the certificates and many of them also won exciting audience prizes.

"I am delighted to participate in the first Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz in this Jubilee Year of Sweden India relations, in Pune which is historically the most important Indian city for Sweden and Swedish companies," said Mr Sven Östberg, Consul General of Sweden to Mumbai.

"The hugely popular Quiz is

back in a physical form after five years and it is most encouraging to see that the enthusiasm from our student friends remains just as high! I congratulate all the participants – each one of them is a winner to me!"

Launched in 2008, this much awaited annual quiz has grown exponentially over the years and is a unique medium to test student's knowledge on the Nobel Prize, Nobel Laureates and their achievements along with Sweden, its people, culture, Swedish innovations and inventions. Organized by the Embassy of Sweden in collaboration with leading Swedish companies in India and other partners as well as the Consulate General of Sweden in Mumbai, it forms part of the Sweden

India Nobel Memorial programme.

The quiz is open to all Indian students currently enrolled at a college/university in India. Students are required to form teams of three members, all from the same institution. The winning team from each city will qualify for the grand finale About the Sweden India Nobel Memorial programme: Instituted in the memory of Swedish innovator, entrepreneur and philanthropist Alfred Nobel, it celebrates the contribution of both Swedish and Indian Nobel Laureates.

With 'Swedish Innovation Made in India' as its theme and the celebrations spread over a couple of months, the programme will act as a vehicle to showcase the prowess of Swedish companies in India.

The Sweden India Nobel Memorial programme 2023 comprises a bouquet of events ranging from seminars and panel discussions to competitions for student and cultural events. This year, the main partners include ABB, Ericsson, Epiroc, IKEA, Oriflame, SAAB, SEB, SKF, Tetrapak, VE Commercial Vehicles and Volvo.

## AGRI FINTECH KIVI CLOSSES SEED ROUND, POSITIONS TO SERVE THE FARMGATE ECOSYSTEM WITH CREDIT, COMMERCE AND DISTRIBUTION

Agri-fintech startup KiVi, operated by Agrosperity Tech Solutions Private Limited, announces the conclusion of its seed round of Rs 15 crore led by Caspian Leap for Agriculture Fund, Piper Serica Angel Fund, YAN Angel Fund, Impact Innovators and Entrepreneurs Foundation, among others. KiVi is incubated at IIT Madras Research Park and stands for kisan vikas - farmer development.

Sharing details about the seed round and the way forward, Mr. Joby C O, Founder & CEO said, "We are excited to welcome our first institutional investors who share KiVi's vision to make agriculture a livelihood

of choice by enabling credit, commerce and distribution to the farmgate ecosystem."

The farmgate ecosystem comprises farmer households and agri entrepreneurs such as input retailers, output aggregators, farmer producer organizations and equipment renters. While the farmgate ecosystem presents a large market opportunity for credit and commerce, it has been under-served by the formal markets due to lack of solutions that address the unique characteristics of the stakeholders. Seasonal cash flows, absence of formal income proof and land ownership proof, fragmented landholding, inability

of traditional lenders to build a cost-effective delivery model and participate in the adjacent commerce opportunities and are the key gaps that KiVi is addressing.

Joby further added, "KiVi enables timely, affordable and scale-based credit as well as commerce from the farmgate to the processor. We accomplish this by leveraging our technology and last mile transaction capability. Our technology platform assembles and integrates the latest technologies in identification, validation, consent, evaluation and monitoring to provide a seamless experience to all stakeholders. Our last mile ca-

pability provides the customer relationship interface that is critical to serve the agri and rural customer base."

"We are excited about our investment in KiVi. The agri fintech space is ripe for innovation and disruption, though having many challenges, including the perceived risk with agri credit. We believe that KiVi, led by Joby, has the right blend of people with rich experience of rural financial services and agriculture to make this happen," said Emmanuel Murray, Investment Director at Caspian Leap for Agriculture Fund. "The investment will help KiVi to build a robust technology platform for scale-up.



**Pune (Voice news service):-** "Chaos is increasing across the globe. Dictatorship is creeping in invisibly in India too. Hitler used to say 'I am Germany'. Similarly, 'I am India' is being propagated today. This thing is dangerous in the future. Indians should use the voting weapon in their hands at the right time. Those who want to create anarchy should be brought to the democratic path. In this battle, Gandhi's philosophy of inclusiveness, non-violence, and satyagraha is reassuring and guiding," said Dr. Kumar

Saptarshi, Veteran Gandhian Leader and the president of Maharashtra Gandhi Smarak Nidhi. Dr. Saptarshi was addressing the gathering at the valedictory program of Gandhi Saptah on the occasion of the 154th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, organized by the Suryadatta Education Foundation and Suryadatta Global Peace Research Foundation.

On this occasion & the Suryadatta National Conclave on Gandhian Philosophy, the sixth 'Suryadatta Gandhian Philosophy Award-2023' presented to Dr. Shripal Sabinis, veteran literary & president of 89th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan. This award was in the form of a statue of Gandhi ji, Scarf & Citation. Prof. Dr.

Sanjay B. Chordiya presided over the function. Lalita Sabinis, Sushama Chordiya, Vice President, Prashant Pitliya, Director of Suryadatta Group of Institutes.

Dr. Kumar Saptarshi said, "India is a diverse country & people of all castes and religions of the world live here with dignity. Indian is our religion & identity publicly. Our culture is 'Sabka Bhala Ho'. Also, India is known as Mahatma Gandhi's country. The whole world is looking towards India for peace and guidance. Unfortunately, in India, few people try to kill Gandhi every year. But, Gandhi is not a human, it is thought, and philosophy, which is eternal. Few people are presenting Gandhi in the wrong manner. We have to understand reality and spread

true Gandhi." Dr. Shripal Sabinis expressed his gratitude for the award & said, "Gandhian thought opposes imperialism and inequality. It is a philosophy that inspires the common man to live fearlessly by increasing his self-strength. Gandhi's experiment of caste-religion unity survives even today. Gandhi gave the message of self-reliance, village industry, non-violence, the doctrine of Satyagraha, and equality. Kasturba Gandhi was equally valuable to him. Hence the life of Kasturba and Mahatma Gandhi is inspiring. Gandhi's public welfare model is ideal. Gandhi has influenced many leaders of the world, and there is a large section of people who believe in him all over the world."



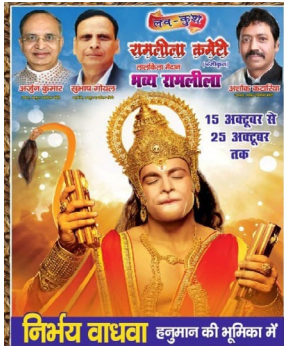


Date 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

T.O. Power and Voice

Page 2

## Ramlila will be held for ten days in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, actor Nirbhay Wadhwa will play the role of Hanuman, while Mukesh Rishi will play Ravana



**Pune (Voice news service):-** This time a grand Ramlila will be

organized in Delhi from 15th October to 25th October. The event is being organized by the Ramlila Committee, where thousands of devotees will enjoy Ramlila. Actor Nirbhay Wadhwa will play the role of Hanuman in this Ramlila. Actor Nirbhay Wadhwa played the role of Hanumanji in the serial 'Sankat Mochan Mahabali Hanuman'. Apart from this,

Tenali Rama, Qayamat Ki Raat, Man Ki Awaaz Pratigya, Shrikant Bashir, Mahabharata, Mahakali, Katha Hanuman, Vighnaharta Ganesh, Shiv Shakti Tapa Tyag Tandav, Karmphal Data Shani, has worked in many other big TV shows. On this occasion, Nirbhay Wadhwa says, "I enjoy playing the role of Hanumanji and I am his devotee, I worship him daily."



Gagan Malik will play the role of Ram in Ramlila, who had also played Ram in Sankat Mochan Mahabali Hanuman. While Sweetie will be seen in the role of Sita, Mukesh Rishi will be seen in the role of Ravana.

## BIGGER, BETTER AND GRANDER: ZOMALAND IS BACK WITH ITS 4TH SEASON

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Zomato Live Entertainment has announced the fourth edition of Zomaland, one of India's greatest and most awaited carnivals that brings together the best in food, LIVE entertainment, music, and games. Kickstarting this season in Pune on 4th November 2023, the festival will be held in eight cities including Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata. Zomaland by Zom-

ato is a truly immersive and holistic experience for people across age groups and has something for everyone. Like every edition, Zomaland 2023-24 will be a grand ensemble that brings together some of the best restaurants from across the country, a power-packed artist lineup and a plethora of stunning experiences. The Carnival will also have exclusive experience zones and games to engage the live audience. In its previous edition that

spread across seven cities, Zomaland witnessed a staggering 175k+ attendees and saw participation from around 400+ restaurants, with 90+ performances and delivering 120+ hours of entertainment. Zeenah Vilcassim, CEO, Zomato Live said, "We are extremely excited to be back with our fourth season; poised to be our biggest to date. Starting in Pune, the festival will now be pitching tents across eight cities, more than any other edition before

it. The previous seasons of Zomaland charmingly captured the heart of each city and this year, we are gearing up to take it to new heights. It is a true celebration of food, music, and culture and we can't wait to entertain and delight our audiences as always" Going beyond the realm of food, music and performances, Zomaland also features 'Carnival City', a space where attendees can immerse themselves in fun, interactive installations and Instagram.

## Give your Navratri a healthy twist with the goodness of almonds!



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Navratri, a festival of dance, devotion, and vibrant colours, marks one of the most auspicious times in the Indian calendar. It is not just a festival in India but a celebration of faith, community, and tradition. Spanning nine days, the festival is marked by vibrant dances, colourful dresses, and the collective reverence of Goddess Durga. Amid the joyous celebrations, fasting remains a distinct tradition. During the Navratri celebration, some people choose to fast while others embrace the Sattvik/ pure vegetarian diet. In this landscape of dietary restraint, almonds stand out not just as a tasty inclusion but also as a nutritional powerhouse. One of the remarkable traits of almonds is its satiating properties, ensuring that those who consume them feel full and satisfied. Almonds may look tiny, but they have a lot to offer in terms of nutritional value. Boasting a profile of 15 nutrients, including vitamin E, dietary fiber, protein 1, riboflavin, manganese, and folate 2, almonds offer more than just satiety. Several scientific studies have further illuminated the multifaceted benefits of regular almond consumption. From promoting heart health 3 and aiding diabetes 4 management to enhancing skin health 5, and assisting in weight management 6, almonds have proven their mettle time and again. Emphasizing on the importance of healthy snacking during

fasting in Navratri, Bollywood Celebrity and Actress, Soha Ali Khan said, "During the auspicious period of Navratri fasting, the importance of strategic snacking cannot be overstated. Smart snacking comes into play when there are longer gaps between meals, offering a multitude of benefits to your physical well-being. As I focus on mindful snacking, almonds offer a delightful and nutritious addition to the diet. Incorporating almonds into my meals is like adding a touch of love and health to every bite, reminding me to savor the moment and nourish my body and soul." Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant said, "While Navratri festival can promote balanced eating, it's essential to avoid overindulging in fried or sugary foods that are sometimes consumed during this period. Opt for healthier options like boiled sweet potatoes, steamed sprouts, fruits, and nuts. Incorporating almonds into your Navratri diet not only adds a delightful crunch but also provides essential nutrients, reminding us that nourishing our bodies is important during this auspicious time too. Furthermore, studies have shown that almonds can aid in diabetes management, support weight control, and contribute to heart health. Research findings indicate that incorporating almonds into a balanced diet may lead to reduced total and LDL cholesterol levels, as well as a decrease in inflammation, which can otherwise be detrimental to heart health 7." Further commenting on the versatility of almonds, Ritika Samadhar, Regional Head – Dietetics, Max Healthcare – Delhi said, "Healthy eating during

festivals ensures that you get a balanced intake of essential nutrients, including vitamins, minerals, fiber, and protein, which are crucial for bodily functions and well-being. Staying hydrated and consuming a balanced diet within the fasting guidelines is essential for maintaining good health during this period. With their impressive combination of protein, healthy fats 8, fiber, vitamins, and minerals, almonds offer a holistic snacking experience that caters to both flavor and nutrition. Almonds are incredibly versatile and can be enjoyed in various ways in recipes and can be enjoyed with family and friends during fasting. You can eat them raw, roasted, lightly salted, or use almond flour or almond butter in recipes to create a wide range of dishes." MBBS & Nutritionist, Dr. Rohini Patil, said, "Sweets and snacks are an intrinsic part of Navratri just like any other festival. A lot of us tend to have cravings and indulge in unhealthy foods. A prudent approach to managing this temptation is to switch to healthier options such as dried fruits or nuts like almonds, which are excellent snack choices. Substituting highly processed snacks with dry, roasted, or lightly salted almond variations not only satisfies our taste buds during the festivities but also contributes to our well-being. These tiny wonders are packed with essential nutrients making a positive impact on your overall health." Speaking about keeping your energy levels high during festivities, Fitness Expert and Celebrity Master Instructor, Yasmin Karachiwala said, "Sweets and snacks hold a special place during Navratri, much like any

other festival. It's common for many of us to experience cravings and indulge in less healthy options. A wise strategy to navigate these temptations is to make a switch towards healthier alternatives, such as dried fruits or nuts like almonds. Opting for dry, roasted, or lightly salted almond variations not only satisfies our taste buds during the festive season but also promotes our well-being. These small wonders are bursting with essential nutrients, which can significantly enhance our overall health." Dr. Madhumitha Krishnan, Ayurveda Expert said, "Maintaining good health and practicing mindful eating is always the best way to celebrate festivals. Especially during Navratri as it involves fasting, which is abstaining from grains, lentils, and non-vegetarian food. Some people also observe strict diet and eat only sattvic food during the festival. Sattvic diet includes fresh fruits, vegetables, sprouts, nuts, grains, pulses, lentils, and dairy products. These foods provide sustained energy, maintain stable blood sugar levels, and reduce fatigue. Almonds are indeed considered a valuable part of a Sattvic diet due to their numerous health benefits and purity according to Ayurvedic principles 9. Soaked or raw almond consumption offers a host of long-term health benefits. Different studies from across the world have found that almonds promote gut 10 and heart health, support weight management, and assist in diabetes management. Additionally, almonds are known to enhance skin health 11, providing a radiant glow that adds to the festive charm."

## Puneites welcome Asian Games Kabaddi Gold medalist Snehal with grand rally Listening to the national anthem is a surreal feeling, says Snehal

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Puneites celebrated the success of Snehal Shinde, India's Asian Games gold medal-winning Kabaddi player on Thursday with a grand rally - from the Dagdu-sheth Ganpati Mandir to Snehal's house in the Khadak Police line - in the city. "The way this city welcomed me back and all the love they showered on me is surreal," Snehal said, while interacting with the media after the rally. Snehal was cheered all



along the route by people and she acknowledged them by waving her gold medal. Snehal's close family - her husband Sagar Sakhare, her mother-in-law Swa-

ti Sakhare, her parents - Surekha and Pradeep Shinde, brother Nikhil Shinde, sister Kishori Shinde and other relatives also joined the celebration.

"My sister Kishori, who herself is a Kabaddi player, inspired me to take up the sport and I am proud that I could follow her footsteps and play for the national team," she said before adding that listening to the national anthem in Hangzhou is something she will never forget. "There were times when India dominated the sport but seeing the competitive teams from Iran and Taiwan shows that the sport is gaining popularity outside India, and it's a nice feeling," Snehal said.

## Triple Crown for Kirrtane, Phadke at MT ITF S400 Seniors tennis championships

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Nitten Kirrtane, Sagarika Phadke won a triple crown at the ITF S400 Seniors championships-co sponsored by Aryan Pumps and conducted under the Auspices of ITF, MSLTA and PMDTA at the Deccan Gymkhana Tennis courts Left handed Nitten Kirrtane won a triple crown winning the 45plus Singles and Doubles and the 30 plus Mixed Doubles title In the amens 45plus Kirrtane played Yati Gujarati 6-0,6-1, he then teamed up with Mukund Joshi to lift the doubles crown outwitting KP Balraj and KP Balakumar 6-2,6-0, he won the 30 plus mixed doubles pairing Sagarika Phadke winning 6-2,6-3 against Rinku Kumar and Swarndeep Dhodi, Sagarika Phadke won the women's 35plus event scoring a 6-2,6-1 win over Safun Shaikh and then also the doubles title along with. Her sister Sonal Phadke they outplayed Rinku Kumari and Girija Yervadekar 6-2,6-1 In the Mens 50 Plus



Rajesh Ganapathy won a double crown he won the singles outplaying Navin Agarwal 6-1, 6-2 and in the doubles he tied up with Rvrk Ranga Rao then pair put out A Rajesh Nair and Vinay Roy 6-1, 6-2; The prizes were given away at the hands of Arjun Awardee Winner Gaurav Natekar, Sandeep Kirrtane, Mr.Sunder Iyer, Hon Secretary of MSLTA and Mr.Girish Inamdar, General Secretary of Deccan Gymkhana, Mr.Himanshu Gosavi, Mr.Ramarao Dosa, Leena Nageshkar were present on the oc-

casion Following are the results: Mens 30 Plus: Final Round: Prosonjit Paul (Ind) bt Vishal Vishu (Ind) 6-0, 6-1; Mens 35 Plus: Final Round: Ketan Dhumal (Ind) [2] bt Ravindranath Pandey (Ind) [1] 6-2, 6-2; Mens 40 Plus: Semifinal Round: Aditya Khanna (Ind) [1] bt Swarndeep Singh Dhodi (Ind) [4] 6-3, 7-6(5); Mandar Wakankar (Ind) [2] bt Sandeep Pawar (Ind) [3] 4-6, 6-3,(10-5); Mens 45 Plus: Final Round: Nitten Kirrtane

(Ind) [1] bt Yati Gujarathi (Ind) [2] 6-0, 6-1; Mens 50 Plus: final Round: Rajesh Ganapathy (Ind) [5] bt Navin Agarwal (Ind) [6] 6-1, 6-2; Doubles: Men's 45 Plus: Final Round: Mukund Joshi(Ind)/Nitten Kirrtane(Ind)[2] bt Balakumar KP(Ind)/Balaraj KP 6-2, 6-0; Women's Singles 35Plus: Final Round: Sagarika Phadke(Ind)[2] bt Safin Shaikh(Ind) 6-2, 6-1; Mixed Doubles 40 Plus: Final Round: Radhika Kanitkar(Ind)/Aditya Kanitkar(Ind) bt Sonal Phadke (Ind)/Aakash Kale(Ind) 6-0, 6-1; Men's 50 Plus: Final Round: Rajesh Ganapathy(Ind)/Rvrk Ranga Rao(Ind) bt A Rajesh Nair(Ind)/Vimal Roy(Ind) 6-1, 6-2; Mixed Doubles 35Plus: Final Round: Sagarika Phadke/Nitten Kirrtane bt Rinku Kumari/Swarndeep Singh Dhodi 6-2, 6-3; Women's Doubles: Sagarika Phadke/Sonal Phalake bt Rinku Kumari/Girija Yervadekar 6-2,6-1

## 12 teams for fifth Edition of "PYC Goldfieldd Late Raju Bhalekar Trophy" Under-19 Two Day Cricket Tournament

**Pune (Voice news service):-** 12 teams have been invited for the fifth edition of the "PYC-Goldfieldd Late Raju Bhalekar Trophy" Under-19 Two Day Cricket Tournament organized by the PYC Hindu Gymkhana. The matches will be played on PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Deccan Gymkhana, Varroc Vengsarkar Cricket Academy, Briliants Ground and Poona club grounds. Speaking to reporters Mr.Kumar Tamhane, President of PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Mr. Sarang Lagu, Hon. Secretary and Mr. Vinayak Dravid, Cricket Secretary of the PYC

Hindu Gymkhana said that, teams like host PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Varroc Vengsarkar Academy, Poona Club, Deccan Gymkhana, Cadence, Parsi Gymkhana, Club of Maharashtra, MCA A, MCA B, Vilas CC, Stars CC, Ambitious or United Sports Club will be taking part in this event. This will be the fifth consecutive year that the Royal Goldfield Club Resorts Ltd has graciously sponsored this event. Mr.Anil Chajjed and Mr.TN Sundar of Royal Goldfield Club Resorts Ltd, Dapoli added, The objective of Royal

Goldfieldd Club Resorts is to provide world class sports infrastructure. It is also our aim to encourage budding talent through sports camps, training academies and professional coaching. The Royal Goldfield Club Resorts has already developed an English country style pavilion and cricket ground, which will be further augmented by state of the art infrastructure that will come up in phases. All matches will be of 90 overs per side as per BCCI/MCA playing conditions and will be of 2 days duration. Opening match and Final match will be

played at PYC Hindu Gymkhana cricket ground. The winning and runner up team will get Late. Shri. Raju Bhalekar Trophy. Apart from winner and runner up trophy Best Batsman, Best Bowler, Best Wicketkeeper, Best fielder and Man of the series will be awarded with individual trophies, Mr.Vinayak Dravid added. A tournament committee comprising of Mr.Vinayak Dravid, Mr.Sarang Lagu, Mr.Niranjan Godbole, Mr.Indrajeet Kamtekar, Mr.Parag Shahane has been formed for the smooth conduct of the event.

## Thums Up, the official beverage partner of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and Shah Rukh Khan Ignite Belief in Team India's Victory

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Thums Up, India's homegrown beverage brand from The Coca-Cola Company is thrilled to unveil yet another chapter of its association with ICC Men's Cricket World Cup through the launch of the campaign "Tere andar ka har shaq mitaenge, Toofan hain, Cup to hum hi uthaenge." The campaign showcases the fervent support for Team India with Bollywood Superstar Shah Rukh Khan as the Biggest Fan and 'Voice of Belief.' The film will see Shah Rukh Khan in a double role, representing the mind and the heart of every fan, with the heart ultimately winning over the mind, in its unequivocal support for Team India. Recognizing that cricket isn't merely a game but an integral part of India's culture, Thums Up has steadfastly stood alongside every cricket fan on this incredible journey. From engaging with cricket fans addressing their inner dilemma, to highlighting the relentless determination of our players to launching the 'Thums Up Fan Pulse' on Disney+ Hotstar fostering passionate conversations, Thums Up has en-



sured that cricket enthusiasts are instilled with unwavering confidence in Team India's victory. As the tournament unfolds, the stage set and the team poised for action, belief takes the center stage, rendering all doubts inconsequential. With Shah Rukh Khan's charismatic portrayal, we aim to ignite faith among cricket enthusiasts, invigorating their belief in Team India, making the journey to victory even more exhilarating. Adding to the excitement, fans will experience a delightful surprise with the Shah Rukh Khan Believer Bot, leveraging cutting-edge technology. This AI-powered bot will respond with insightful facts about Team India, all presented in Shah Rukh Khan's Voice of Belief, effectively addressing any doubts, and engaging with fans on social media like never before. Commenting on the cam-

paign Tish Condono, Senior Category Director, Sparkling Flavors, Coca-Cola India, and South-West Asia, "We believe that the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup is the biggest sporting event for our country. Partnership with the ICC provides us with a unique opportunity to unite our customers, consumers, brands, and cricket through diverse engagement formats. Our collaboration with Shah Rukh Khan as the 'Voice of Belief' for Thums Up's association with ICC Men's Cricket World Cup campaign embodies our commitment to turning every doubt into an unwavering belief." Shah Rukh Khan on his association with Thums Up, said, "It's a pleasure to be the 'Voice of Belief' for Thums Up's association with ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, which speaks to the hearts of a billion cricket fans. This is

a special one for India as the World Cup is happening in our own country and we must all cheer for our Toofans, rooting for them to create history one more time." Sukesht Nayak, Chief Creative Officer, Ogilvy India, says, "Cricket is a wave that rides on pure emotion. When the team is playing well, we all rally behind the team, and suddenly with one subpar performance, we lose all hope. It's intense. It's almost like there are two sides within all of us constantly pushing against one another. The doubter and the believer. It's very real. So, with Thums Up's 2023 World Cup campaign, we asked Shah Rukh Khan to feature in a double role and bring out this battle of opinions, quite literally. Making the point very clearly and very strongly. The doubter in you may push with all the might, but the believer in you shall prevail. Let's be true fans. Let's believe India will win." Additionally, Thums Up will also collaborate with Bharat Army, the most passionate fan army for Team India to create real time content to nurture the belief in India's victory at the World Cup.

## antiSOCIAL celebrates 8 years of giving memorable experiences to India



**Pune (Voice news service):-** This October, antiSOCIAL, India's iconic performance venue, is gearing up for a month-long celebration as it marks its glorious eight years of unforgettable performances. Founded with the vision to be an experience of a lifetime, antiSOCIAL has emerged as a dynamic focal point for community, collaboration, and creativity, nurturing communities and uniting people through shared cultural experiences. From hosting transformative workshops to curating immersive music events, antiSO-

CIAL has continually pushed the boundaries by crafting an ambience where performers, creative professionals and communities can fully immerse themselves in a world of captivating soundscapes and unparalleled sensory experiences. The avant-garde performance venue is all set to celebrate this significant milestone in style with a resounding celebration of creativity and collaboration. As part of the festivities, antiSOCIAL is also launching a limited-period Exclusive Membership Card. The membership card opens the doors to a year of complimentary access to all events, VIP privileges, and exclusive discounts on drinks and merchandise, making it an indispensable accessory for loyal patrons and enthusiasts alike. The celebration continues with an eagerly awaited showcase featuring a stellar line-up of both national and international artists. It kicks off on the 15th with the 'Chameleon World' Al-

bum Tour, promising sold-out shows. The musical journey continues with the electrifying New World Order featuring Godless, Maneating Orchid & Midhaven, followed by sLick! Halloween featuring Amotik (DE), Ana Lilia, and Seventh Sea. Reflecting on this momentous occasion, Vivek Dudani, Head of Events & Programming at antiSOCIAL, and the creative force behind this venture said, "A fundamental presence in India's nightlife landscape, antiSOCIAL is renowned for showcasing the best in music and contemporary culture from India and around the globe. Over the past eight years, we've witnessed antiSOCIAL evolve from a daytime cafe and restaurant into a dynamic community space and performance venue come nightfall. It has truly become a second home for creative communities of all kinds. The vision was to create a venue that could thrive as a hub for art-

ists and performers to showcase their talents. Musicians, dancers, writers, and artists of all kinds now have a platform to express themselves and connect intimately with their audience." Mayank Bhatt, CEO of Impresario Entertainment and Hospitality Private Limited, stated "Throughout the transformative journey of eight years, antiSOCIAL has solidified its position as the ultimate music destination in India. We aim to establish a haven for creativity and cultural expression turning antiSOCIAL into a vibrant epicentre, drawing both local and international artists who unite to kindle the essence of music and art." By the end of 2023, Impresario Entertainment and Hospitality Private Limited has set its sight on expanding to Goa and Hyderabad. This strategic move aims to introduce contemporary Indian culture to a broader national audience establishing antiSOCIAL as the premier destination for cultural enrichment.





## BAI Pune Centre felicitates meritorious children of construction workers



**Pune (Voice news service):-** In an effort to encourage children of construction labourers to continue with their education, Builders Association of India (BAI) Pune Centre organized 'Labourer's children felicitation program'. More than 100 meritorious students from class 9th to 11th were felicitated with certificates in a program organized at Vishnu Kripa Hall in Shaniwar Peth recently. Mr. Nikheelchandra Zode, Regional PF Commissioner-II, Employee Provident Fund Organisation graced the occasion as the Chief Guest along with special guests Anil Gujar, Secretary, Maharashtra Aargya Madal and Prasad Sovani, Professional Corporate Train-

er in presence of D.S. Chaudhari, President BAI Pune, Vice President Sunil Mate, Honorary Secretary Ajay Gujar, Honorary Joint Secretary Mahesh Maideo and Rajaram Hajare, Hon.treasurer of BAI Pune and convenor Labourer's children felicitation program, parents and other dignitaries. Past President of BAI Pune, Mr D.S. Shirole who brought this concept into reality was felicitated on the occasion. This is the second year of this initiative. The students were given special kit including a bag and tiffin box along with certificate. Sanjay Apte and Karan Pawar were the comperes while Ajay Gujjar gave vote of thanks.

## Ishanya foundation felicitates NGOs and individuals for their outstanding contribution and social impact



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Ishanya Foundation recently felicitated various NGOs and individuals for their contribution to the society, at the valedictory function of the 16th Yellow Ribbon NGO fair (YRNF) held at the Creativity Mall, Yerawada. Mr G.G Sohoni, Principal Advisor and Trustee of BAIF Development Research Foundation was felicitated for his outstanding contribution in the field of natural resource management and rural livelihoods, at the hands of Mr. Sailesh Meh-ta-CMD of Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. The highlight of the program was the first Kalavishkar Pradarshini Awards by NABARD. The first prize under this initiative was given to Kottapuram integrated development society (kids) from Kerala while the second prize was given

to Savitri Community Managed Resource Centre, Maharashtra. The awards were given away at the hands of well-known Bollywood actress Padmini Kolhapure. Paooolwaat Foundation, Maharashtra, Vandhan Krushi Vikas Farmer Producer Company Ltd. - Maharashtra and Recharkha -the Ecosocial tribe, Maharashtra respectively bagged the first, second and third prizes for the best stalls while Idea foundation & Ishanya foundation (Home chef & catering course) bagged the prize for best food stall. The five day festival conducted under the leadership of Mrs. Parul Mehta, Trustee Ishanya Foundation saw Weavers, Artisans and Farmers from various parts of India displaying their creativity with more than 3000 curated products.

## Reyansh Kumar from The Lexicon International School, Kalyani Nagar, Pune "World Topper" and Achieves "World Rank #6" at the Mental Math World Cup 2023



**Pune (Voice news service):-** The Lexicon International School, Kalyani Nagar, is proud to announce the extraordinary achievement of Reyansh Kumar, a Class 3B student, who has secured the prestigious title of Country Topper and an impressive 'World Rank #6' in the Mental Math World Cup 2023. The Mental Math World Cup 2023, organized by Live Math Competitions and League, took place online using the innovative Mental Math Mobile App 'Arena' and comprised two rigorous rounds. Round 1, was the Elimination Round, held on July 22, 2023, and witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 7,100 students from across India. Reyansh Kumar's exceptional performance in this round propelled him to the Final Round, held on August 26, 2023, where he competed against 3,268 students, showcasing his outstanding mathematical prowess on a global stage. Mr. Pankaj Sharma, President

of The Lexicon Group of Institutes and Chairman & MD of Pune Mirror, Civic Mirror, and MultiFit, expressed his excitement, saying, Reyansh Kumar's remarkable performance in the Mental Math World Cup 2023 is a testament to the quality of education and the nurturing environment we provide at The Lexicon Schools. We are immensely proud of Reyansh and his outstanding achievement, which reflects our commitment to fostering excellence in education. Reyansh's success will undoubtedly inspire his friends and the other generation of students to reach for the stars and excel in their academic pursuits. Reyansh's achievement in the Mental Math World Cup 2023 is a source of immense pride for The Lexicon Schools and the entire Lexicon Group of Institutes. Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO, The Lexicon Group of Institutes, EduCrack & EasyRecruit, added, Reyansh Kumar's success in the Mental Math World Cup 2023 is a clear example of his diligence, perseverance, and passion for mathematics. He has made our school and community proud by achieving the title of Country 'Topper' and an impressive 'World Rank #6'. We applaud Rita Ma'am and Gurmeet Ma'am for teaching Reyansh the concepts and nurturing him to achieve success on a global level! As Reyansh's parents, we are overjoyed with this remarkable achievement. We are extremely thankful for the guidance and support he has received throughout his journey at The Lexicon Schools.

## MIT-WPU DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATION 5<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDIA & JOURNALISM

**Pune (Voice news service):-** We are delighted to bring to you the 5th edition of our exciting and star-studded National Conference on Media & Journalism which is an annual event where leading lights from the world of print, TV, and digital journalism and other media-related fields come together to discuss and deliberate on the present state of media in the country. It is organized by MIT World Peace University's Department of Media & Communication and will be held on 18th and 19th October 2023 at MIT World Peace University, Kothrud, Pune. This year we are associated with the Pune Union of Working Journalists (Pune), Mumbai Press Club (Mumbai), R.K. Laxman Museum (Pune), and Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (New Delhi). This edition of NCMJ will also be instituting the JOURNALISM FOR PEACE AWARDS. This year we will conduct riveting panel discussions that will delve into the evolving landscape of media, the impact of artificial intelligence on journalism, and how journalists can bridge societal differences and foster unity. The topics of discussion for the 5th NCMJ are listed below:

**1. Media and Democracy:** This session will address the various perspectives about the symbiotic relationship between media and democracy in a turbulent contemporary world.

**2. Margins to Mainstream:** This session will discuss the changing media landscape, where existing media practices are being pushed to the margins and

have forced the industry to look at newer media practices.

**3. Youth to Youth:** In this session, the invited media practitioners will discuss prevailing career prospects and opportunities for Media students.

**4. Media Education in India:** In this session, eminent personalities from both the academic and industrial spheres will provide insights about the new challenges faced by media training institutions and knowledge production centres across the country.

**5. Inclusivity and Media:** This session will deliberate on the inclusiveness of contemporary Indian media and will provide deep insights into issues of representation and bias in Media.

**6. AI and Media:** This session will seriously address the issues related to the invasion of AI into news-generating media and will provide insights into the way in which the media industry can assimilate its possibilities and be aware of the pitfalls.

Some of the attendees include eminent personalities like: MK Venu, Founder-Editor, The Wire Nikunj Garg, Managing Editor, Times Network Abhijeet Panse, Film Director, 'Thackeray' & 'Rege', Sandeep Adhwaryu, Lead Cartoonist, Times of India, Ashutosh, Senior Journalist, Sooraj Kollasey, Malayalam Film Actor Kalki Subramaniam, Trans Activist, Raj Aditya Kapoor, Blockchain Expert Ashish Khaitan, Lawyer and Journalist, Priyam Gandhi-Mody, Author, Editor, CNN Ganesh



Chandanshive, Renowned Singer, Ashish Kulkarni, CEO, Reliance Animation, Himanshu Shekhar Mishra, Senior Editor, NDTV, Sahar Zaman, Former Anchor & Consulting Editor, Mirror Now, Sunanda Mehta, Resident Editor, The Indian Express, Prasanna Joshi, News Editor-National, Pudhari News TV, Dhruv Sehgal, critically acclaimed writer, actor, director, Prof. Ujjwala Barve, Professor and Former Head, SPPU, Prof. T. T. Sreekumar, Professor, EFLU, Vineeta Deshmukh - Sr Journalist, Pune Rajesh Mahapatra, Former Editor, PTI

**The JOURNALISM FOR PEACE award was introduced by MIT-WPU in 2022 to promote the culture of Dialogue, Inclusivity & Peace in journalism.**

The winners for this year are: Tora Agrawala, Independent Journalist Safina Nabi, Independent Journalist Sonal Pateria, Journalist, Lallantop. The awardees have been selected by a panel of esteemed jurors. The external jurors include MK Venu, Founder-Editor, The Wire, Sunan-

da Mehta, Resident Editor, The Indian Express Sandeep Adhwaryu, Chief Cartoonist, Times of India, Prof. Sanjeev Ratna Singh, Professor, Bennett University. And the internal jurors include Prof (Dr) R.M. Chitnis, Vice Chancellor, MIT World Peace University, Prof. Santosh Kumar, Dean, MIT World Peace University, School of Liberal Arts, Prof Dhiraj Singh, Associate Dean, MIT World Peace University, Department of Media & Communication.

The winners of the JFPA 2023 will be felicitated at the Inaugural Session on October 18, 2023 and awarded a sum of Rs. 50,000 each for their significant contribution to journalism.

The conference will be hosting the celebrated Tipanya Group, which will be performing Kabir's Bhajans. The University is also organizing a Short Film Contest, the theme of which is - The Future of News: Making and Watching. The winners will be awarded cash prizes ranging from Rs. 10,000 for the First Prize, Rs. 7,000 for the Second Prize,

and Rs. 5,000 for the Third Prize.

The National Conference on Media and Journalism, since its conception has adhered closely to the vision and mission of Shri Rahul V. Karad, Managing Trustee & Executive President MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, Pune, Executive President, MIT-WPU. Shri Rahul V. Karad has been instrumental in turning MIT-World Peace University into a world-class institution of excellence that combines the best of Indian thought with the most cutting-edge global education standards. With the theme of 'Dialogue, Inclusivity & Peace', the two-day Conference aims to be a platform to discuss and deliberate on the future course of media and journalism, especially in today's conflicted society. We are witnessing multiple instances of global conflict, including the recent Israel-Hamas war and the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war. Through this year's NCMJ, the Institution would also like to emphasize the need for dialogue among warring countries, parties, and groups, in order to achieve the dream of an inclusive and harmonious society. In this regard, the Conference promises to be a unique and insightful event. NCMJ was launched in 2019 by MIT World Peace University, Pune (MIT-WPU), the Flagship University of MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, Pune. The first edition of the National Conference on Media & Journalism was held on the 21st and 22nd September, 2019 at the world's largest dome, built by our Revered Founder & UNESCO Chair

Holder, Prof. (Dr) Vishwanath D. Karad at our campus in Loni.

For the very first time, over 200 journalists and media professionals from different parts of the country gathered on one platform and engaged in conclusive discussions on varied topics. Some of the past speakers at our four NCMJs have included leading lights from the media such as Shri N. Ram, The Hindu Group; Ms Neerja Chowdhary, Sr. Journalist; Smt. Smrita Prakash, Editor, ANI, Shri Jawahar Sircar, MP; former Shri Pablo Bartholomew, Prasar Bharti CEO, Padmashri Photojournalist; Rasheed Kidwai, Eminent Journalist; Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya, Chairholder, UNESCO for Peace and Intercultural Understanding and Coordinator, Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, among others.

MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions has been setting new standards in education for the past 4 decades with 4 Universities and over 65,000 students since its establishment in 1983. Today, it is considered a promoter of new-age education practices to encourage holistic development of students. Now, as the first World Peace University in the country, MIT WPU under the UNESCO Chair held by it for Democracy, Peace, Human Rights & Tolerance, is on the mission of making 'World Peace through Education' a reality.

Interested ones kindly register for the conference at our official NCMJ website: <https://www.mitwpu-ncmj.com/>

## Pune's Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture collaborates with Liverpool John Moores University, UK and industry partners for 'Employers Day'

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA) in Pune took a significant step in bridging the gap between academic knowledge and the practical needs of the architecture and construction industry on October 12, 2023. In collaboration with the British Council, this pioneering initiative, known as 'Employers' Day', brought together 73 aspiring architects and civil engineers with industry leaders from ten renowned companies.

The event began with a guidance session that aimed to prepare students for interviews and offer insights into training and employment opportunities. Following this, students had the opportunity to interview with ten distinguished companies actively engaged in the construction and architecture sector. The day was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BNCA, and the participating companies, solidifying their commitment to providing training and job opportunities to the students.

Dr. Anurag Kashyap, Principal of BNCA, expressed the significance of the initiative,

stating that it seeks to bridge the divide between classroom education and the dynamic needs of the architecture and construction sector. The MoU encompasses key aspects of research, training, suitable employment prospects, work experience, and practical field study.

Notably, over 50 female students participated in the event, underscoring the importance of diversity and gender inclusivity in these sectors.

Among the dignitaries present were Dr. Vaishali Anagale, the project head, Vice Principal Dr. Sharvey Dongde, and Professors Sujata Karve, Saurabh Marathe, Pooja Ghorpade, and Kanchan At-nurkar. Dr. Vaishali Anagale shared insights into ongoing research projects and the features of the syllabus being prepared for postgraduate courses. She emphasized that the primary objective of this endeavour was to provide aspiring architects with a deep understanding of current industry trends and the array of career opportunities available to them.

The 'Employees' Day' event was organized under the British Council's 'Going Glob-

al Partnership Programme' in collaboration with John Moores University, England, BNCA, Pune Construction and Engineering Research Foundation, and Rohan Developers Private Limited.

Distinguished speakers at the event included Dr. Andrew Ross, Honorary Professor of John Moores University, who discussed the impact of international collaboration in the educational sphere and the benefits of construction training from British universities. Rajesh Choudhary, Vice President of CREDAI, shed light on the real challenges faced by developers in the construction sector and the knowledge and competitive requirements needed to overcome them. Architect Vinayak Thorat, head of the Western Division at Venkataraman Associates, presented unique construction projects and addressed design challenges in architecture, as well as the technical components of the construction sector. Dr. Anupa Maneva, the project leader and a professor at Liverpool John Moores University, along with Prof. Dr. Mohan Sriwardhana, a senior professor at the same university, joined the program in virtual connection.

More than a hundred students from various colleges in Pune had the opportunity to hear from leaders in the field.

Dr. Andrew Ross stressed the impact of educational collaboration, particularly with institutions in England.

He explained the benefits of construction training from universities in England and the need for coordinated research in the industry.

Rajesh Choudhary focused on the real challenges faced by developers and the competitive requirements necessary to succeed.

Architect Vinayak Thorat discussed design challenges and the integration of technical components in the construction sector.

The 'Employers Day' event was a remarkable step forward in creating a symbiotic relationship between academia and industry, equipping aspiring architects with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need for successful careers in the field. It exemplifies the commitment of BNCA, Liverpool John Moores University, the British Council, and industry leaders to the development and growth of the architecture and construction sector.

## Nitin Gadkari: 6th Convocation of 'MIT ADT' University; Degree awarded to 2805 students



**Pune (Voice news service):-** At present, we see unrest all over the world due to varma, caste differences. But, on the other hand, India is seen to be spreading the message of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbkam' to the world and establishing peace in the country by breaking the barriers of language, region and caste due to its unity in diversity. Therefore, the diversity of our country is our strength, and only Strengthen people can bring peace, opined Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.

He was speaking on the occasion of the 6th Convocation of MIT University of Art, Design

and Technology, Pune held at Philosopher Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Vishwshanti Dome, Vishwarajbagh. Gadkari further said, spirituality is related to everyone's life and everything in life. Human cultural progress is equally important for economic progress. The work of creating students with similar values and knowledge of culture is happening through MIT ADT University.

We can eradicate poverty only through science, technology and research and the work of promoting such research is being done by this university. World peace can be achieved only through new

technology, and Same work being done by Prof. Dr. Vishwanath Karad.

Gadkari further said, Our farmer has now become an energy donor. Hence, in future India will not be an energy importer but an exporter. Also, respecting all religions is the need of the hour and only through this can efforts for world peace be successful. If we want to take the country forward, we need to take our research to the forefront.

On the occasion of the event, Padma Shri. Dr. A. S. Kiran Kumar was honored with the Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Award for his contribution to science and technology. While introducing the program, Prof. Dr. Mangesh Karad said that, graduation ceremony is an important moment in everyone's life. In which the end of the students' academic life and the beginning of a bright future. Thus, this year's 6th convocation is a special day of glory for 'MIT ADT'. However, on this occa-

sion, I would like to congratulate all the graduating students and wish them all the best for their future careers.

Speaking on the occasion, Padma Shri Dr. Kiran Kumar said, "It is a matter of honor for me to accept the award given in the name of Dr. Kalam by MIT ADT University, which is bringing a great change in the education sector of the country. India has recently shown the world that we are not inferior in any field. Due to this, students should be proud of their culture and self-esteem and strive to raise the name of the country. Our country has a talented youth generation like no one in the world so the responsibility of fulfilling the dream of an advanced country as shown by Dr. Kalam is now on the shoulders of this youth generation.

A total of 2805 students were awarded degrees Nitin Gadkari awarded degrees to a total of 2805 students including 23 PhDs, 51 gold medals and 188 rank holder certificates.

## M.A.RANGOONWALA COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH CENTRE CELEBRATES WORLD ENDODONTIC DAY WITH VIBRANCY AND DEDICATION



**Pune (Voice news service):-** The global dental fraternity is celebrating October 16th as World Endodontic Day to improve general awareness regarding dental health challenges posed by endodontic diseases and make the public understand various preventive and therapeutic measures taken by dentists and endodontists. Dentists and Endodontists are capable of performing a wide range of predictable and scientifically backed root canal therapy procedures that save millions of teeth every year.

The spirit of celebration was in full bloom at M.A. Rangoonwala College Of Dental Sciences and Research Centre (MARC) as they marked World Endodontic Day in a colorful and vibrant way. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Dr. P.A. In- amdar, the esteemed President of MARDC, who enthusiastically participated in the celebration.

Dr. Vivek Hegde, the former President of the Indian Endodontic Society and Head of the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, led the event with great success.

The collaborative efforts of Dr. Sameer Jadhav and Dr. Lisha Jain, both Executive Committee members of the Indian Endodontic Society and professors at MARDC, were instrumental in organizing this remarkable event. This vibrant and successful event had the active participation of Principal Dr. Ramandeep Dugal, Vice Principal Dr. Salika Sheikh and the complete team of MARDC and Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics showcasing their dedication to promoting the importance of endodontics in dental health.

The centerpiece of the celebration was an enchanting theme that vividly depicted the array of colours seen in endodontic files, essential tools in root canal treatments. This striking representation served as a powerful reminder of the pivotal role endodontics plays in preserving natural teeth and upholding overall dental health.

International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA) and Indian Endodontic Society (IES) are conducting a global campaign to improve awareness regarding this disease through the World Endodontic Day campaign. Prof Dr Sanjay Miglani, President - IES said that a coor-

dated nationwide program by various colleges and institutions are being done on October 16th to improve public awareness of this silent epidemic. Prof Dr Sangeeta Talwar, Former Director - Principal, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi said that periodic dental check-ups and maintaining good oral hygiene are simple measures in preventing this disease and maintaining oral health. Prof Vivek Hegde, Former President - IES further added that the World Endodontic Day is an important day to highlight the need for a collective effort in making oral health in India a priority.

According to Prof Dr Gopi Krishna from India who is also Secretary General for International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA) "Half of the adult population worldwide have at least one diseased tooth with apical periodontitis (AP)".

This startling finding from a global study covering more than 40 countries including India has been published last year in the International Endodontic Journal. The general public is aware of dental caries or tooth decay as a common disease of the oral cavity.

However, few realise the serious long term sequelae of dental caries leads to a disease known as Apical Periodontitis (AP). According to United Nations ESCAP data, 68% of Indian population are adults and the current Indian adult population has crossed one billion individuals. Dr Ajay Logani, Professor CDER - AIIMS, New Delhi added that "the prevalence of dental caries in Indian adult population has been established as 62% which is extremely high".

Apical periodontitis is one of the most common adult dental disease that needs to be treated and more importantly prevented. This is a silent disease that aggravates into a painful condition that makes a patient visit his/her dentist.

The more sensible long-term dental solution would be to save such teeth with root canal therapy procedures instead of the traditional approach of extracting such teeth. Dr Anil Kohli, Former President, Dental Council of India said "Loss of teeth leads to improper chewing of food and indigestion that has direct correlation with decreased quality of life."



## India's Premier Conference and Exhibition - ForgeTech 2023 Receives an Overwhelming Response from The Indian Forging Industry



**Pune (Voice news service):-** ForgeTech India 2023, India's premier forging industry conference and exhibition organized by the Association of Indian Forging Industry (AIFI) has garnered an exceptional response from the Indian forging industry. This, much-anticipated event will take place from November 3rd to 5th, 2023 at The Westin, Pune, Maharashtra. The third edition of ForgeTech India will be held under the leadership of Mr. Vikas Bajaj - President of AIFI, Mr. Yash J Munot - Vice President of AIFI and Convenor of ForgeTech India 2023 and Mr. Asheet Pasricha - Co-Convenor, ForgeTech India 2023.

ForgeTech India 2023 is set to be a significant gathering of forging industry representatives, offering insights into diverse facets of the forging trade and industry. Inductoterm is the Title Sponsor for the event while prominent companies such as JSW Steel Ltd, Arjas Steel Pvt. Ltd., Electrotherm India Ltd., Swiss Steel India Private Ltd, JNH Press Co. Ltd., Tech Art Co. Ltd., are among other esteemed sponsors. Mr. Baba Kalyani, Managing Director of Bharat Forge will be presenting the keynote address at the event. Distinguished participants including renowned industry leaders such as Mr. Vidayashankar Krishnan, Mr. S Muralishankar, Mr. Deven Doshi, Mr. Ranbir Singh, Mr. Abhay Raj Kapoor, Mr. Anil Javalekar and many more will be actively engaged in ForgeTech 2023. It is expected that over 600

delegates from all over the world will be participating in this year's edition. The event will feature technical paper presentations by renowned global experts, showcasing industry developments and the exhibition of supplier capabilities, equipment machinery and tooling innovations. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore emerging technologies, engage with peers and interact with experts from the forging and related industries worldwide. During this Conference and Exhibition, AIFI will be presenting the Forge Master awards.

Mr. Yash Munot, Convenor for ForgeTech India 2023 and Vice President of AIFI, expressed excitement, saying, "We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 3rd edition of ForgeTech India in Pune. This conference and exhibition represent a pivotal moment in strengthening the bonds between India's forging industry and its vital stakeholders. With a focus on industry growth and future trends, this edition of ForgeTech will serve as a collaborative platform for all industry players." He added, "We have observed an overwhelming response from participants and exhibitors, reflecting the industry's enthusiasm for ForgeTech 2023, especially in the post-pandemic landscape. We anticipate significantly higher attendance compared to previous editions."

Mr. Vikas Bajaj, President of AIFI, highlighted the event's transformative potential, saying, "ForgeTech India 2023

holds boundless potential for the entire Indian forging industry. It vows to nurture innovation, drive technological advancements and elevate industry standards. Our focus remains on collaboration, knowledge sharing and the adoption of sustainable practices. We eagerly await the transformation of the Indian forging landscape post-ForgeTech India 2023, envisioning deeper industry collaborations, technology-driven efficiency and an unwavering commitment to quality assurance. This event serves as our gateway to forge new partnerships and propel the forging industry to new heights in the country."

JSW Steel Ltd. spokesperson said, "As a prominent steel company in India, we are eagerly looking forward to ForgeTech India 2023. We anticipate this event to be truly transformative, offering valuable insights into the world of forging technologies and industry trends. For the Indian forging industry, ForgeTech India 2023 holds immense promise, fostering a platform for knowledge exchange and facilitating growth opportunities. We are particularly excited about the potential collaborations with technology providers and industry experts to integrate cutting-edge technologies. ForgeTech India 2023 is set to serve as a catalyst for innovation and progress within the forging sector, and we are fully committed to being an active participant in this journey towards advancement and excellence."

Sridhar Krishnamoorthy, M.D. of Arjas Steel, said, "The Indian Forging Industry holds a pivotal role in driving and bolstering the landscape of Indian manufacturing. With a workforce exceeding 3 lakh skilled and semi-skilled individuals, and boasting over 400 forging units, spanning from small to large capaci-

ty enterprises, this industry adds significant economic value to the Indian economy. Moreover, the forging sector serves as a vital component in localizing component manufacturing and constructing robust supply chains for global markets in key sectors such as Automotive, Machinery, Energy, Transportation and various Engineering domains. Notably, the automotive sector is undergoing transformative changes, emphasizing reduced carbon footprint, circularity of materials, and green energy adoption. In sync with these trends, the forging sector is actively reinventing itself, embracing automation and reducing reliance on fossil fuels".

The Association of Indian Forging Industry (AIFI) at present consists over 200 members, accounting for more than 80% of the total production of the Indian forging industry. The role of AIFI is to promote and develop the Indian Forging Industry to meet the demands and expectations of forging customers and end users, both domestic and global by improving the business environment for its members and contribute increasing their competitiveness through mutual co-operation and understanding of all parties concerned and constant updating of information and technology. Additionally, AIFI arranges for regional meeting across the country to understand issues and trends in the forging industry.

There are a limited number of seats and spaces available for attendance and exhibition. For more information and registration, please visit the website. **ForgeTech 2023: <https://forgechindia.in/> Registration - <https://forgechindia.in/reg/> Exhibition - <https://forgechindia.in/exhibition/> Call For Abstracts - <https://forgechindia.in/paperguide/>**

## HCLFoundation and Stanley Black & Decker to make Indian youth job-ready for the manufacturing industry

**Pune (Voice news service):-** HCLFoundation, which delivers the corporate social responsibility agenda of HCLTech in India, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Stanley Black & Decker, a worldwide leader in tools and outdoor powered equipment, to skill youth in India to make them employable in the manufacturing industry. Stanley Black & Decker will establish training and devel-

opment hubs at two government-run industrial training institutes (ITIs)-ITI Morwadi in Pune and ITI Guindy in Chennai - where HCLFoundation will implement the power tools skill development program. Approximately 1,000 youth are expected to benefit annually from the collaboration. The program will also impart advanced training to ITI trainers, aligning them with the latest market technologies.

Industry outreach activities, technical guest lectures, job fairs and health camps will also be organized. "Our mission is to equip youth and the industrial workforce with job-ready skills and support the growth of manufacturing sector in India," said Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCLFoundation. "By harnessing the combined strengths of HCLFoundation and Stanley Black & Decker

er, we are poised to make a tangible impact on the lives and careers of countless individuals."

"We are proud to contribute to this endeavor and share our expertise in power tools. This initiative is not only about skill development but also about enhancing safety practices and efficiency in the industry," said Sunil Krish, Director-Manufacturing, Stanley Black and Decker India Pvt. Ltd.

## TOYOTA will be exhibiting at the JAPAN MOBILITY SHOW 2023

**Pune (Voice news service):-** At the TOYOTA booth, visitors can enjoy stage performances throughout the entire area, which include music and dance. Another feature is the chance to experience life in the mobility society of the future through attractions that can be enjoyable by all, such as a chance to customize mobility vehicles and racing games with fully hand-operated controls. The vehicle exhibits will embody Toyota's "Mobility for

All" spirit, including the new model of the Century and the Crown series—displayed alongside the machines that will evolve into the one-of-a-kind cherished cars of tomorrow. A photo spot with Toyota's lunar buggy and various other surprises scattered throughout will provide take-home mementos of the future experience. TOYOTA's booth will offer a taste of the future mobility society that we are creating together. TOYOTA will be exhibiting at the JAPAN MOBILITY

SHOW 2023, to be held from Thursday, October 26 to Sunday, November 5\*1, with a booth themed "Let's Change the Future of Cars—Find Your Future."

**CAPSULE BAR** The rear of a vehicle will be custom outfitted as a Capsule Bar, where visitors can answer simple questions to receive a toy gift: a capsule containing one of nine different miniature cars and fun secret items.

**NEO Steer\*2 Driving Experience** Toyota is developing

new technologies that enable drivers to control vehicles without gas or brake pedals, including in a standing position or from a wheelchair. These new driving experiences will be available to visitors through the realistic driving simulator "Gran Turismo 7" (software for PlayStation 5/PlayStation 4)\*3. Details on specific exhibit vehicles will be released in upcoming announcements. Come see, experience, and enjoy the mobility society of the future.

## JLR India retails 2,356 units in H1 of FY24: Records best-ever half-yearly sales

**Pune (Voice news service):-** JLR India today reported its best ever H1 performance with record sales of 2,356 units and a YoY growth of 105% during the April – September 2023 period. The strong half yearly growth was driven by record sales in both quarters, with Q2 witnessing a 108% YoY growth and retails of 1,308 units. JLR India had previously reported a 102% sales growth in Q1,

compared to the same period last year. The order book in FY24 has seen consistent growth, with H1 closing order book higher by 90% compared to the same period last year. Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Defender continue to witness strong demand contributing to 72% of the total order book. The current total order book covers for more than eight months of sales.

Mr. Rajan Amba, Managing Director, JLR India, said, "We are pleased with our strong performance in H1 and Q2 FY24. The consistent growth in our order book exemplifies the growing strength of our brand and products in the hearts of Indian consumers. We will continue to introduce new products that are best suited to meet the discerning needs of our customers and invest in strengthening our

brand desire and client experience." The successful launch of 24MY Range Rover Velar along with growing demand for Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Defender underpins the strong sales performance in H1. Defender was the best-selling model with sales of 1,000 units in H1. JLR certified pre-owned business grew by 83% in H1 FY24.

## byteXL's appoints senior education experts to its leadership team to augment its College Transformation Programme

**Pune (Voice news service):-** byteXL, one of India's leading EdTech platforms focused on transforming engineering institutes, has announced the appointment of senior education experts to its leadership team. The edtech startup has roped in Vaibhav Shukla and Nishant Reddy - both with decades of experience and proven abilities - to strengthen its position in the market.

Mr. Vaibhav Shukla will be byteXL's Head of Learning and Student Success and will focus on elevating the edtech platform by spearheading curriculum and content development. As a content strategy expert, skilled in design, development, delivery, and management, and with more than two decades of experience in education, Vaibhav

brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the company. An alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad and IIT Bombay, Vaibhav previously served as Director of Content Development at LEAD Academy and holds many industry certifications. Mr. Nishant Reddy, an alumnus of IIM and NIT has joined byteXL as the Head of Operations and will be responsible for optimizing college partnerships, business efficiency and scalability, and customer satisfaction. Nishanth is an experienced business leader with a demonstrated history of working in the SaaS sales and product domains specializing in EdTech, and has served as President APAC & GCC at Turito Inc. He has a proven track record of over a decade in marketing, business development, customer retention,

operations, and product management. He is also the recipient of the Top 100 Leaders in Education award at the Global Forum for Education & Learning, Dubai.

byteXL is on a mission to transform colleges in emerging technologies. With a strong presence in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, they recently forayed into Tamil Nadu. While the edtech startup has already signed up with 22 colleges covering over 42,000 students under the transformation program this academic year, they are aiming for a total of 50 colleges with the number of students almost doubling. Following byteXL's tie-up with the colleges, the student placement rates have significantly gone up from 25% to 70%, along

with a positive impact on salary packages.

On the onboarding of senior education experts in the leadership team, Mr. Karun Tadepalli, CEO and co-founder of byteXL said, "We need the right kind of talent and people who will steer the vision of byteXL in transforming colleges with an industry-relevant IT curriculum. Vaibhav and Nishant have exceptional capacities, experience, and a proven track record in the education domain. Their skills and vision are very much aligned with byteXL's vision and mission. We are on the right track to achieve better and more concrete outcomes through their ability to deliver unique industry solutions by identifying the relevant need; and giving a competitive edge to the engineering students."

## IKEA continues to support people to live a better everyday life at home – delivering a growth of 5.7 %

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Ingka Group today announced their share of IKEA retail sales of EUR 41.7 billion[iii] for the financial year 2023[iv], an increase of 5.7% compared to last year (EUR 39.5 billion in FY22). With a legacy of 80 years, the company continues to invest in making IKEA more accessible, affordable and sustainable – all to fulfil the dreams and needs of people in life at home. Despite external factors such as the pandemic, economic and geopolitical instabilities, Ingka Group remained committed to the IKEA vision of creating a better everyday life for the many people. Bringing more home furnishing inspiration and accelerating investments into digital and new and existing stores has led to a 7% increase in store visitation and online share to 26% (25% in FY22). Across the fiscal year and in recent weeks, the company has continued to invest in decreasing prices wherever possible and will keep doing so for many products across markets in the coming months.

"Life at home has never been more important and fulfilling people's needs and dreams will forever be our purpose. Through the year we have continued to invest in the future of our businesses as well in actions to re-

duce absolute carbon emissions to protect the home we all share, the planet. I'm deeply impressed of how the IKEA colleagues have responded and strengthened the relationship with customer – aiming to deliver to our vision and be a true partner in life at home. I'm optimistic about the future – while preparing for that the journey ahead will continue to be bumpy," said Jesper Brodin, CEO, Ingka Group. As IKEA celebrates its 80th birthday, the company is set to create a better IKEA, transforming stores to increase their fulfillment capacities while creating an omnichannel retailer that customers can interact with whenever, however, and wherever they want. Ingka Group opened 60 new locations across the world, with new stores in Copenhagen, Madrid, Rome and San Francisco, as well as plan and order points in Australia, Serbia and Switzerland, to mention a few. The company also announced that it is accelerating its investment in some of its biggest markets, where more than EUR 4.5 billion will be invested in the US, UK, France, and Spain alone, improving customer experience and delivery services.

Earlier this year, Ingka Group also acquired Made4net, the

next generation leader in retail fulfillment to increase the capacity needed for a successful end-to-end customer experience.

In addition, the company is rolling out new features on IKEA Kreativ, an AI and computer vision technology that helps customers visualize their home furnishing and dreams in 3D. The company is implementing sustainable shops and circular hubs in each of its stores to support the many to live a more sustainable life at home by using less energy and water, reducing waste and single use, as well as inspire more people to repair, resell, recycle, and care for products with both take-back, second hand and the selling of spare parts.

"More people than ever before have access to IKEA products and services, and we will keep working closer with our customers to reach the many people in both physical and digital meeting points. At the same time, we continue to innovate our retail offer by closely listening to our customers feedback and making sure that they get what they want the most – convenient shopping experience, good value for money, and long-lasting quality products to have a more pleasant and sustainable life at home. This remains our way for-

ward," said Tolga Öncü, Ingka Retail Manager, Ingka Group.

While Ingka Group continues to grow and perform, the constant pace of retail transformation will continue and is impacting the business. "This requires that we constantly look into how we can strengthen our businesses and secure we are financially fit for generations to come," continues Jesper Brodin, CEO, Ingka Group. Ingka Group also continued its investments into sustainability and contribute to the IKEA goal of becoming climate positive by reducing more greenhouse gas emissions than the total value chain emits by 2030, while growing the IKEA business. Across the years the company has committed to invest EUR 6.5 billion into renewable energy where close to EUR 4 billion have already been invested. At the same time, the company is expanding its EV fleet and allowing for a quarter of all home deliveries to be now done with zero emission vehicles.

The company also committed to offer plant-based food at the same or lower price than the meat-based alternatives in all its markets, making more sustainable options available and further supporting the transition to net-zero.

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Nikon India Private Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Nikon Corporation, an imaging technology leader, introduced the highly anticipated Nikon Z f in India today at an event held at The Lalit, Connaught Place, New Delhi. Nikon India solidifies its mirrorless camera line-up with the launch of this hybrid camera that is set to redefine the art of videography as well as photography. To revolutionize the imaging landscape, the Nikon Z f comes equipped with a full-frame sensor, the EXPEED 7 image-processing engine and top tier specifications which are at par with Nikon mirrorless flagship products - the Nikon Z 9 and Z 8. The best-in-class technology and features offered by the new Z f including exceptional AF and VR performance, make the new Z f a statement of expression. The Z f is tailor-made for modern-day creators as it is a perfect blend of innovation, performance, and versatility. The cutting-edge camera Nikon Z f is poised to elevate creativity, setting new standards in performance, and promising to transform every moment and 'Make it Iconic'.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director of Nikon India Pvt.



Ltd. said, "We are thrilled with the launch of Nikon Z f, our latest addition to the full-frame Z family that offers versatile and innovative hybrid features. The new camera is power-packed with the EXPEED 7 image processor offering features like in-camera 10-bit N-log video. With this launch, we have introduced the industry-first focus point VR which helps to reduce the subject blur even in compositions where the subject is positioned at the periphery and comes with a dedicated monochrome selector. The AI-driven features like Portrait Impression Balance, Skin Softening and Advance Auto, are designed keeping in mind the needs of photographers and cinematographers who are into Wedding and Fashion genres. The new Nikon Z f will become an extension of the creator community and will help them take their content a notch higher".

Nikon Z f is decorated with features like enhanced vid-

eo performance allowing for more authentic production of videos and stills. With H.265/H.264 10-bit in-camera recording and N-Log/HLG recording support, users can also shoot with minimum gear and without the need for an external recorder. With up to 125 minutes[1] of 4K UHD/60p[2] video recording, the Z f enables full-scale video recording with sufficient duration. In addition, it supports the recording of 4K UHD video using 6K oversampling[3], enabling the creation of high-resolution videos. With EXPEED 7, users can capture low-light situations beautifully as noise is suppressed even when ISO sensitivity is increased, thereby expanding the range of shooting low-light scenes such as night landscapes and indoor portraits.

Mr. Sajjan Kumar unveiled the new Nikon Z f and attending the event were who's who of the imaging industry from the likes of Mr. Vijay Eesam

(Wedding Cinematographer), Ms. Aparupa Dey (Wildlife Photographer & Film-Maker), Mr. Ranjan Zingade (Cinematographer), Mr. Rig Biswas (Wedding Cinematographer) and Mr. Sanjeev Sindhu (Wedding Cinematographer). The event showcased the technology and innovation behind the Nikon Z f – a result of the exceptional research and engineering.

Nikon India has been strategically expanding the portfolio of Z mirrorless camera as well as lenses. With the launch of Nikon Z f, Nikon India also announced NIKKOR Z 600mm f/6.3 VR S, the newest S-Line super-telephoto prime lens in the NIKKOR Z S-Line series that is optimized to capture both stills and video in a compact design and is well compatible with Nikon Z f. Combined with its impressive focal length and S-Line optical performance, it is perfect for capturing subjects in wildlife, sports and action. Additionally, the brand introduced NIKKOR Z 135mm f/1.8 S Plena, the latest compact body NIKKOR Z S-Line series lens that embodies amazing visual experience, high reliability, and exceptional optical performance. **Availability** The Nikon Z f camera body will be available from 12th October 2023 at INR 1,76,995,00/- across India at Nikon outlets.

## Fincare Small Finance Bank Expands Operations in Western India

Fincare Small Finance Bank, renowned for its innovative and inclusive digital banking theme, is poised to enhance its presence in the west region, comprising Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa & Madhya Pradesh. With an unwavering commitment to financial inclusion, the bank aims to contribute to the region's economy, harnessing the power of technology and innovation. The Bank has inaugurated new banking outlets in the cities of Mumbai and Pune thus elevating the total branch count in the region to 275 (273 Branches & 2 Business Correspondents). By implementing cutting-edge technology and

embracing a customer-centric approach, the bank aims to redefine banking experience for its customers. This milestone marks a significant step in the Bank's journey to expand its footprint and empower the community with comprehensive banking services tailored to meet the diverse needs of rural, mass retail as well as affluent customers.

In addition to bolstering the existing business verticals, the bank has ambitious plans for participating in the region's growth. These plans encompass innovative solutions that will create new opportunities and further enhance the region's micro and small en-

terprises ecosystem. The Bank is looking forward to unveil these plans in the near future.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rajeev Yadav, [MD & CEO] at Fincare Small Finance Bank, said, "The Bank is dedicated to bringing the power of digital banking to the heart of Western India. The new branches in Mumbai and Pune will not only expand our footprint but also ensure that our high-tech, inclusive banking model reaches even more individuals and businesses. Our commitment to providing innovative financial solutions remains unwavering, and this expansion is a testament to that commit-

ment." Through the expansion, Fincare Small Finance Bank is set to take another step in fostering digital financial inclusion and driving economic growth in region. As the bank looks ahead to a brighter future, the bank reaffirms its commitment to serving the community and contributing to the region's prosperity.

As of 31st March 2023, the Bank has a network of 1,231 banking outlets spread across 19 states and three union territories, covering 338 districts and 57,186 villages. The Bank serves 42+ Lakh customers and has a workforce of 14,000+.