

AIRTEL AFRICA PLC ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Pune (Voice news service):- Airtel Africa plc has today announced the retirement of the Chief Executive Officer, Olusegun "Segun" Ogunsanya, with effect from 1 July, 2024. Mr. Ogunsanya, who joined Airtel in 2012, ran the Nigeria Operations of the Telecommunications and mobile money company for nine years before his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Group in 2021. With local knowledge of the African landscape and deep distribution experience he led the company in maintaining double-digit revenue growth over many quarters and to deliver new, innovative products to its customers across the continent. Building on the work undertaken during his time as CEO, including the launch of the Company's first Sustainability Strategy, and given his deep experience across Africa, Mr. Ogunsanya will become the Airtel Africa Charitable Foundation's inaugural Chair. The Charitable Foundation will accelerate the Company's commitment to its sustainability initiatives and charitable

operations across its locations in Africa. The Charitable Foundation's objectives will focus on promoting digital inclusion, financial inclusion, access to education, and environmental protection. The Charitable Foundation will be a separate legal entity and be independent of the Airtel Africa Group. Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman of Airtel Africa plc said: "On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Segun Ogunsanya for his commitment and significant contribution to Airtel Africa plc as Chief Executive and before that as Managing Director and CEO of Nigeria, our largest market in Africa. "I am pleased Segun has agreed, following his retirement, to assume the new role as Chair of the Airtel Africa Charitable Foundation, where he will bring his visionary leadership to this new philanthropic initiative to advance development and prosperity across Africa. Segun will retire from the Board with our very best wishes and sincere appreciation for everything he has achieved."

Raintree Foundation partners with Srushti Conservation Foundation to facilitate a Certificate Course in Peoples' Biodiversity Register Development for Masters' students at Fergusson College, DESPU

Pune (Voice news service):- Raintree Foundation in partnership with Srushti Conservation Foundation (SCF) is facilitating a 15-Day Certificate Course in Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR) development for Masters' students at the Fergusson College, Deccan Education Society Pune University (DESPU). The People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) is an essential participatory tool for documenting the local community's traditional knowledge about the region's biodiversity and human interaction with ecological systems. Human actions like habitat destruction, pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and invasive species threaten biodiversity, causing ecosystem disruptions, habitat loss, and straining community resources. Urgent conservation is essential for rural communities and their natural heritage. The People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), mandated by the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, documents, and helps preserve local bio-resources along with traditional knowledge. A total of 27 students

across multiple post-graduate specializations including Botany, Zoology, and Environmental Science are enrolled in this course. The course will include classroom sessions and on-field activity in Sakhar and Gunjawane villages in Pune, providing hands-on experience as well as course credits for the students under the National Education Policy. The program will commence from 1st Jan 2024 till 15th January 2024. It will include theory sessions conducted by SCF at the Fergusson College and on-field data-collection organized by the Raintree Foundation at Sakhar and Gunjawane villages. The course will offer practical exposure to the students of the respective departments, helping raise their awareness towards the ground reality of biodiversity management, and the importance of PBR in creating village management plans. While at its core the PBR is a document which contains comprehensive information on the locally available bio-resources, their medicinal use and traditional knowledge, it has the potential to be used to foster community stewardship

Clean water, wastewater technology, and renewable energy exhibition held in Pimpri-Chinchwad

Pune (Voice news service):- Considering the need for clean water, an exhibition on modern technology and renewable energy has been organized on water and wastewater. The "India Water Show and Renewable Energy Expo" will be held from January 10 to 12 at the Auto Cluster Exhibition Center in Pimpri-Chinchwad. The exhibition will mainly showcase water and wastewater treatment plant systems and technologies, ozone generation systems, testing equipment, RO plants, alkaline water, filters, evaporation systems, rooftop solar, and renewable energy equipment such as solar panels. Organizers Sadiq Sheikh and S Shankar informed that Sanjay Kulkarni, Municipal Engineer (Environment) of Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation will inaugurate the exhibition. On the second day of the

exhibition, the conference will be inaugurated by Rajendra Pawar, Chief Engineer of Mahavitaran. In this seminar, MSEDCL engineer Dr Santosh Patni will guide about the government's new solar energy policy and regulations. Sanjay Kulkarni, former president of MASMA, will guide the introduction of hydrogen energy. Masma president Shashikant Wakade and ex-president Rohan Upasani will be present on this occasion. The exhibition has been organized in collaboration with Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Solar Manufacturing Association (MASMA), Sustainability and Energy Practitioners Association (SEPA), and on behalf of Propel Enterprises, Mumbai. Veteran experts, manufacturers, and vendors from Maharashtra and other states will participate in this



exhibition. Demonstrations of products and services will be presented at this time and guidance from various experts on new products and technologies will be provided at this time. As the population grows rapidly, the supply of water is limited. More water is being used for industry, agriculture, and daily use. Similarly, wastewater can be a valuable resource in large cities. In addition to reducing stress on limited freshwater supplies, wastewater

recycling can improve the quality of streams and lakes by reducing the amount of wastewater they receive. Wastewater can be reclaimed for crop and landscape irrigation, groundwater recharge, or recreational purposes. Organizers Sadiq Shaikh and S Shankar informed that this exhibition has been organized to promote new technologies in the field of wastewater and renewable energy.

The 23rd ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance

Pune (Voice news service):- The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organized the 23rd edition of the ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, on 5 January 2024, in New Delhi in the august presence of Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, as the Chief Guest. Instituted in the year 2001, the Awards recognize the enduring contribution of professionals and corporates for having imbibed and inculcated good corporate governance practices. Acknowledging the efforts of the Institute in promoting the cause of Good Corporate Governance, Shri Om Birla said that "The ICSI and its members have a major role to play in the formulation of Corporate Governance Structure of the country as the wisdom and expertise of Company Secretaries is required for the better formulation of corporate laws". He further added that, "The ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance is a furtherance to the Institute's efforts of establishing a trans-

parent, accountable and ethically right Corporate India for global investors". The 23rd ICSI Lifetime Achievement Award for recognizing leadership in instituting Good Corporate Governance into reality, was conferred on to Mr. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor Company. Highlighting the importance of the ICSI National Awards, CS Manish Gupta, President, The ICSI, said, "With Governance moving beyond the confines of Board Rooms, Corporate Stewardship and Corporate Citizenship have become the focal areas for Businesses world over. As one of the pioneers in promoting Good Corporate Governance, the ICSI not just develops professionals who steer corporate action in the right direction, but has also been acknowledging and awarding the unwavering efforts of Corporates and Professionals in powering and promoting ethical, social and ecological responsibilities, through the ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance."

Empowerment in Action: The Lexicon International School, Kalyani Nagar, Guides the Path with Women's Safety Training

Pune (Voice news service):- In a bold stride towards fostering a secure and supportive community, The Lexicon International School, Kalyani Nagar, hosted a Women's Safety Training Session, catering to both students and parents. This impactful event aimed to equip attendees with essential skills, knowledge, and confidence to enhance personal safety. The comprehensive training focused on pivotal aspects such as situational awareness, effective communication, practical self-defense techniques, and the cultivation of presence of mind and mental and emotional stability. With a commitment to holistic education, The Lexicon Schools recognized the importance of empowering its community members with the tools to navigate the complexities of personal safety. "The Women's Safety Training Session at The Lexicon International School exemplifies the institution's commitment to cultivating a community that thrives on empowerment. It underscores the belief that empowerment isn't a passive state but



an ongoing journey, urging all to embrace the skills and knowledge needed for personal safety with courage and conviction," says Mr. Pankaj Sharma, President, The Lexicon Group of Institutions, Chairman & MD, Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror, and MultiFit. The session fostered active participation as students and parents engaged in hands-on training, gaining essential skills to navigate various safety scenarios effectively. The notion that empowerment lies in proactive preparedness rather than reactive vulnerability was a key theme throughout the session. A significant takeaway from the event is the call to be safe, secure, and balanced and to spread awareness about women's

Lexicon Rainbow Students Shine Bright in Annual Concert, Celebrating Equal Opportunities for Every Child



Pune (Voice news service):- The students of Lexicon Rainbow Therapy and Child Development Centre were wholeheartedly given a chance and much appreciated in the annual concert of The Lexicon International School, Kalyani Nagar. Mr. Pankaj Sharma, President, The Lexicon Group of Institutions, Chairman and MD-Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror & MultiFit believes in the motto of Inclusive Education for All, and work towards it. Dr. Isha Soni, Senior Occupational Therapist and Centre Head at Lexicon Rainbow addressed a large audience of 1000 plus parents about different services offered for children who show any developmental delay. She firmly believes that, Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child. This year's theme was 'Festivals - A Musical Extravaganza of Cultures Indian and International. "The students

of Lexicon Rainbow Child Development Centre put up a fabulous show by dancing and celebrating festivals like Diwali, Halloween, Caloundra Music, Golden Mask and La Tomatina festival. A lot of hardwork and dedication was put in by the entire team of therapists and special educators from ideation to execution. Children with neurodiverse needs have difficulty coping with different situations, costumes, stage lights, loud sounds, wearing props around them due to sensory sensitivities. During the preparation, the team had to constantly tweak according to the child's tolerance level and adaptability. It was phenomenal for these children to stand in one place, imitate the actions (dance steps) of their teacher and follow the rhythm. Mrs Monisha Sharma, Co-Founder Director, The Lexicon Group asserted, It is extremely crucial for us as a society to be aware and sensitive towards neurodiversity and contribute our own bit to help them lead a fulfilled life.

Bharti Foundation's Changemaker Awards celebrates excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility

The Changemaker Awards, hosted by Bharti Foundation recently, brought together corporates and individuals who have undertaken initiatives and/or are working on projects focused on creating a better world for the current and future generations. Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman at Bharti Foundation (Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises), Ms. Mamta Saikia, CEO at Bharti Foundation, Lt. Col. Vijay Chadda, Member of the Governing Board of Bharti Foundation, Mr. Akhil Gupta, Vice-Chairman at Bharti Enterprises, leaders from Bharti Group Companies and partner organisations, along with supporters and volunteers of the Foundation graced the occasion. This year, the awards received 85 nominations under 6 award categories ranging from Employee Engagement for Bharti Group Companies, Social Initiatives - National & International to Individual Philanthropy - National & International. The nominations boast of positive impact made on society through strategic, innovative, and sustainable practices in various sectors - education, environment, healthcare to livelihood, sports, etc. This year's winners include:



Individual Philanthropy: Harifidy Rakotobe (Airtel Madagascar S.A.), Michael Opwonyo (Airtel Uganda Ltd.) and Anne Njeri (Airtel Kenya Networks Limited) Besides, Airtel Nigeria, Airtel Kenya Networks Limited, Airtel Tanzania Limited, Airtel Networks Zambia PLC and employees from various Airtel circles in India received the award for their exemplary contribution towards Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Mamta Saikia, CEO of Bharti Foundation, expressed her thoughts the Changemaker Awards, stating, "At Bharti Foundation, we believe in the power of transformative practices that are sustainable. Change-maker Awards stand as a testimony of the collective efforts of individuals and corporates in creating a positive impact on society through their exemplary work. Their commitment towards corporate social responsibility serves as an inspiration for others in various industries." Established in 2008, the Changemaker Awards extend acknowledgment to the commendable efforts of individuals at national and international level besides corporates towards Sustainable Development Goals. The award provides a common platform for applicants to showcase their work in community transformation, environmental initiatives and volunteering programs, thereby making a meaningful difference in the society.

donation and supporting children from slums. Poornima Kapoor from Bharti Airtel Limited won Special Jury award in the for supporting students from economically challenged background with limited access to quality education, career opportunities and guidance. Social Initiative National: Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation for their project Medical PODS, conceptualised for regions where health infrastructure is in deficit. Signify Innovations India Limited's project, 'Khel Jyoti,' encourages sports in rural areas by providing safe and well-lit spaces for children. Avaya India Pvt. Ltd. for their initiative 'Road to Career,' providing skill-building opportunities and increasing employability of marginalized youth and adolescents. Indus Towers' 'innovative project, 'Digital Transformation Van' under their flagship CSR program 'Saksham', has brought digital literacy on wheels to isolated and disadvantaged groups in rural and urban parts of India. ECI Telecom India Pvt. Ltd.'s initiative 'Right to Education for Every Child' supports capacity building of school run by a grassroot NGO, benefiting more than 2,000 underprivileged students. Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd. won Special Jury Award in the category for its initiative, 'Ericsson's Centre of Excellence,' that addresses skill gaps in Telecom Industry through training students on 5G and emerging technologies along with ensuring their job placements. Employee Engagement Award (recognising efforts of Bharti Group Companies towards volunteering and payroll giving towards supporting education for underprivileged children from rural parts of the country): Bharti Realty engaged

