



ACOHI Changing the Economics & Dynamics of Street Food on International Level in Pune

Pune (Voice news service):- In an extremely heartwarming move ACOHI the first private governing authority of Hospitality Industry of India & Asia announces it's most important & researched product AMRIT FOOD CART which will change the economics of street food here in Pune, Maharashtra & rest of India.

The first cart has been licensed and approved after clearing all protocols and is ready for public service under the banner of AMRIT FOOD CART which is in the format of franchise model at an extremely low and affordable price.

The first license has been allocated to M/S Shinde Chowpatty in the area of Wagholi - Bakori Road Pune.

It took years for us to experiment this model which was our big dream which is very much unique and progressive model in the entire India, Asia and rest of the world as far as street food is concerned. New York is known for the best country in the Street food but we are more than confident that this type of model is no where across globe for street food.

It took 7 years for us to develop and research this product which is unique and will create revolution on street food like never before. The Amrit Food Cart carefully made keeping the needs of the cuisine, state, preferences, hygiene, safety, customer choice, visions of Indian Government and the immediate need of our beloved nation, due to this innovation India will come forward in the segment of street food in entire Asia.

We Indians are known for our street food but we have never given the street food its due respect and importance the street food deserves and this is the befitting salute & up gradation to our street food which will get highlighted in



much more respectful manner giving financial freedom to the owners who are the franchise owners of this product said Dr. Saneer Awasarmmel Chairman of ACOHI - Asian Countries Chamber of Hospitality Industry.

Here are the supreme & dynamic features of AMRIT FOOD CART - 3 National & International World Record Holder Special Food Cart.

- Made from Supreme Quality Certified Stainless Steel of Food Grade material.
- Easy to operate, can be handled by one single person fully for movement. Super easy wheels specially defined for easier movement of AMRIT FOOD CART.
- Solar operated.
- Separate hand wash area.
- The most costly water of India & Asia which is out of reach of general people is made available for cooking and drinking on this special cart which makes it very special and unique and also first in India, Asia & rest of the World. Food is also cooked in alkaline water here on the AMRIT FOOD CART which makes it more special, unique & leader in its class till date across the globe.
- Separate water tank of water (Alkaline & Regular).
- Scroll Display, Wi Fi, GPS,

- Hand Sanitizers, CCTV, Fire Safety Equipment are included in the Amrit Food Cart. Front Scroll displays the name of the Cart, franchise owners name, specialty, FDA license number.
- 3 sided service area with special branding options.
- Separate dry & wet storage given on top as well as below the cart.
- Special & selected ACOHI SOP Certified Standard Milk, Butter, Ghee used and not the regular one which is fully adulterated which is the standard practice in majority of street food pattern in today's time.
- Special safety defined for Food Service & Disposable and world class products are used which are ACOHI certified and approved which are just best in class.
- Only special curretted kacchi ghani culinary oil of highest standards is used in the food preparations.
- Salt is natural and not refined in the cooking process.
- Sugar is sulphur less.
- CCTV attached to cart and the footage directly connected to the local governing authorities for safety of customers and local premises, also via the work directly sitting at his home keeping close watch on operations.

- Cashless handling of money using special machines and software's.
- Police Clearance of Staff with carefully selected area of operations as per the SOP's of AMRIT FOOD CART.
- Included the parameters of Standup India, Startup India, Digital India, Solar India and Make in India with the vision to make Indian economy and health of Indians far better and effective as far as street food is concerned.
- Special Hospitality Insurance - KAVACH to Staff as well as the cart for any untoward incidence or event for the safety of staff as well as owner.
- The franchise owners are basically techies who have qualifications of MBA for both husband wife who has taken the plunge into the business of street food in much more effective manner after doing appropriate research and operate under the brand of Shinde Chowpatty. It is our memorable day and feel extremely lucky that we are the chosen one for the business, we have gone through the series of paper work and SOP procedures of AMRIT FOOD CART and after qualifying for the same the license has been allotted to operate the AMRIT FOOD CART and we think this is the life changing

- experience and day for us as we have become the integral part of Hospitality Industry of India and has also got the special Culinary ID which we can boost upon which is ACOHI/IND-PUN-MH/500024/SHINDECHOWPATTY/AMRIT/2023/STATE/28DEC23 said Rahul Shinde and his wife Pratima Shinde. The process is not easy to get the license as all the parameters of business which includes place, locality, clientele, background, education, KYC, legal aspects are heavily looked upon by the management of AMRIT FOOD CART and we wholeheartedly invite you all to become part of our journey either as our extended franchisee or as our esteemed customers, we have chosen the format of manual plan and will be operating with the South Indian Cuisine with Breakfast items to start up with and surely we will create benchmark for our brand under the able guidance of AMRIT FOOD CART said Rahul Shinde.
- It is an important move in actual upliftment of women empowerment in the real sense, we were about to invest more than 50 to 70 lacs in other franchise brand but after realizing that in such small ticket size of Rs. 2.60 lacs which is the Amrit Food Cart price and overall project cost including accessories & other services which is below 5 lacs gave real booster and confidence to us, moreover we wish to thank the present MODI government for aiding us with MUDRA loan which was swiftly made available to us when we informed the name of ACOHI and Amrit Food Cart concept to bankers, roads were made easy for us by Bank of India Wagholi Branch and we wish to thank the Management of Bank of India - Pune for the same said Pratima Shinde owner of Shinde Chowpatty.

- Boost driver engagement and loyalty
- Enhance brand recognition and visibility
- Encourage healthy competition among drivers
- Strengthen the overall quality of service provided to passengers
- Appreciate and reward their dedicated driver community

"We are organising a prize giving event for our winners in all four cities, Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata. We will be presenting 9 motorcycles and 170 smartphones to our winners across different cities. This is a recognition of the dedication and hard work of our driver partners," said Sahil Setia, Influencer Marketing Manager SA, inDrive

Media Baron & Author Indrani Mukerjea Judges and Inspires at KC College's Kiran 2023 Fest

Pune (Voice news service):- Indrani Mukerjea, India-born British Media Baron, Entrepreneur & Author added a touch of distinction as she graced the Old MacDonald's Hidden Farm event, a captivating segment of KC College's Kiran 2023 fest. Renowned for her notable contributions in the media industry, Mukerjea's attendance added a touch of glamour and significance to the fest, creating a buzz among attendees.

With a rich entrepreneurial history, including founding INX Services Private Limited in Kolkata and co-founding INX Media in Mumbai, Mukerjea's achievements have earned her a spot on The Wall Street Journal's prestigious list of '50 Women to Watch.'

Her role as a Regional Director for the Asia-Pacific



at IMD International Search Group further underscores her expertise and leadership qualities. Beyond her professional endeavors, Indrani Mukerjea has been an advocate for fairness, justice, and rehabilitation within the prison system, actively engaged in philanthropy to improve the lives of undertrial prison inmates. The Old MacDonald's Hidden Farm event, a key feature of Kiran 2023, invited participants to explore

audacious versions of childhood nursery rhymes within a limited timeframe. Under Mukerjea's encouraging influence, students embarked on a creative journey, crafting imaginative narratives that celebrated the convergence of courage and creativity. Indrani Mukerjea, reflecting on the event, shared motivational words with the students, "Embrace the audacity of your creativity, for it is the key to unlocking the boundless possibilities within. Your courage today shapes the narratives of tomorrow."

As attendees explored audacious versions of childhood nursery rhymes, Mukerjea's presence not only elevated the fest but also celebrated the convergence of imagination and courage, creating a memorable experience for all.

Kotak Mahindra Bank to Appoint Mr. C S Rajan, as Part-Time Chairman

Pune (Voice news service):- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited ("Kotak" or "the Bank") today announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Mr. C S Rajan, Independent Director of the Bank, as the Part-time Chairman, for a period of two years, effective 1st January 2024.

Mr. Rajan's appointment as the next Part-time Chairman of the Bank's Board follows the retirement of the incumbent Part-time Chairman, Mr. Prakash Apte, whose term expires on 31st December 2023. Mr. C S Rajan is a successful leader with over 40 years of experience across significant government portfolios. He was appointed as an Independent Director on the Board of the Bank, with effect from 22nd October 2022. An IAS officer of 1978 batch, he retired as Chief Secretary of the Government of Rajasthan in the year 2016.

He served in leadership roles for 12 years in key Infrastructure sectors such as Energy, Highways, Water Resources and Industry including SSI/MSME and worked for 14 years in Agriculture and Rural Development. During his 38 years of service in the IAS he has also acquired experience in the fields of Human Resources, Finance and General Administration. He has served on inter-disciplinary teams for review of World Bank projects in other States and also as a Consultant to the World Bank in a Study on "Farmer Participation in Agricultural Research and Extension System". After his retirement from active service in July 2016, he served as Deputy Chairman in the Chief Ministers' Advisory Council of Rajasthan for a period of two and half years. In October 2018, Mr. Rajan was appointed by the Government of India on the Board of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited ("IL & FS") initially as Director, thereafter as Managing Director



for a period of three and half years, then as Chairman & Managing Director for a year and, since then, he has been serving as the Non-Executive Chairman of IL & FS.

Mr. Prakash Apte, Non-Executive Independent Part-Time Chairman, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "We are pleased to announce that RBI has approved the appointment of Mr. C S Rajan as the next Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank. His expertise across sectors vital to India's future, including infrastructure, roads, energy, agriculture & rural development, industry and commerce will bring a fresh perspective to the deliberations and contribute to the Bank's growth."

Mr. Dipak Gupta, Managing Director & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "We thank Mr. Prakash Apte for his contribution to the Bank, first as an Independent Director and subsequently as the Chairman of the Bank's Board. We would like to congratulate Mr. C S Rajan on his appointment as Chairman of the Bank's Board. We are confident that the Bank will benefit immensely from Mr. Rajan's guidance for its next phase of growth."

Mr. C S Rajan, Independent Director and Non-Executive Independent Part-Time Chairman - Designate, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "I am deeply humbled and honoured to accept the appointment as Chairman of the Bank and thank the Board for entrusting me with the responsibility to steer the Bank to new heights and increase stakeholder value. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board and the entire Team."

inDrive drivers excel during Driver of the Month Campaign, with 300% more rides completed

Pune (Voice news service):- inDrive, a super mobility app headquartered in Mountain View, California, recently announced the winners of their "Driver of the Month" campaign. This was conducted across four cities in India, to encourage drivers to take more rides and earn the prestige of being crowned the Best Performing Driver! The inDrive - Driver of the Month Contest was held in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata, where more than over 80K drivers participated across the Car, Auto Rickshaw & Moto category. To win, the participants had to register themselves on the contest landing page, complete eligibility criteria and take the most rides during the month.

Today the inDrive team announced the winners, with 60+ winners from Delhi NCR, 50+ winners from Mumbai, 40+ winners from Kolkata and 20+ winners from Pune. "With the "Driver of the Month" campaign, we aimed to inspire and motivate our driver community to go the extra mile, and set new standards of excellence in ride-hailing service. We received an amazing response from our driver partners: Our driver registration grew by 330%, our active driver percentage grew by 419%, and our drivers completed 300% more rides during the campaign period!" said Avik Karmakar, GTM Manager - South Asia, inDrive.

It's that time when we cherish the year's happy and successful moments. inDrive values their driver partners, so to support them, the company held a 'Driver of the Month' Campaign to thank drivers for all their hard work and dedication, and for doing an excellent job on the roads. inDrive's "Driver of the Month" campaign's main objectives were to:

CLEAR Premium Water Set To Undertake Majority Stake in KELZAI Volcanic Water

Pune (Voice news service):- In a groundbreaking strategic move, CLEAR Premium Water, proudly announces undertaking a majority stake in KELZAI Volcanic Water, celebrated for its distinctive natural mineral water sourced from volcanic springs. This acquisition marks a momentous milestone for CLEAR Premium Water as it boldly charts its course toward expanding its product portfolio and pioneering innovation in the bottled water industry.

Nayan Shah, the visionary Founder & CEO of CLEAR Premium Water, expresses his excitement, stating, "Our association with KELZAI Volcanic Water underscores our dedication to meeting the increasing demand for natural mineral water. With the strategic plant location, we aim to reach a broader audience, leveraging Clear's expertise, extensive network, and KELZAI's es-

ablished brand identity. This alliance is set to transform KELZAI's market presence, ensuring remarkable growth and establishing dominance in the luxury water segment. This partnership enhances our natural mineral water offerings, positioning us to deliver exceptional value and impeccable service to our customers."

In recent years, the surge in fine dining and the emergence of niche culinary experiences have heightened the demand for natural mineral water. KELZAI is poised to seamlessly elevate the overall dining experience in these establishments, while also meeting the needs of a broader luxury audience in various settings such as cafes, restaurants, institutions, multiplexes, hotels, and more.

Under the terms of this acquisition, KELZAI Volcanic Water will be exclusively distributed and marketed by CLEAR Premium Water's parent company, Energy Beverages Private



Limited, leveraging its robust network and Pan India Presence. This association underscores a shared dedication to delivering the highest quality natural mineral water, promising exceptional service, and an augmented market share for both CLEAR Premium Water and KELZAI Volcanic Water. The synergy between CLEAR Premium Water and KELZAI Volcanic Water heralds a new era in the industry, promising a dynamic combination of expertise, innovation, and unwavering commitment to sustainability and quality. This strategic alliance is set to captivate the market and reinforce CLEAR Premium Water's position as a prominent player in the bottled water industry. KELZAI Volcanic Water is available in 200 ml, 500 ml, and 1 liter biodegradable PET bottles, as well as available in 300 ml, 500 ml, and 750 ml glass bottles (Still & Sparkling)

foods. Such choices not only promote long-term health but also yield substantial savings by preventing potential medical costs. The ripple effect extends to practical tips on meal planning, bulk purchasing, and avoiding impulsive grocery expenditures."

Rath champions the significance of mental well-being as a linchpin for personal and professional success. He accentuates the positive aspects of cultivating a harmonious mental and life balance, emphasizing the impact on stress reduction, decision-making, and overall productivity. Rath encourages incorporating activities like meditation seamlessly into daily life, positioning mental wellness as a potent tool not only for cost avoidance but also as a catalyst for sustained professional growth.

Further Rath contends that financial literacy is paramount in securing a stable financial future. Rath urges individuals to educate themselves on budgeting, saving, and investing to make informed decisions and avoid financial pitfalls. Regular financial assessments enable the identification of areas for expense reduction, redirecting funds toward savings or investments. Rath emphasizes that financial savvy serves as a safety net, mitigating the im-

pact of unforeseen expenses. In a strategic approach, Rath advocates for proactive engagement in regular check-ups and health diagnoses. "The financial prudence of preventive healthcare, asserting that early detection significantly reduces overall treatment costs. Individuals should contemplate the potential repercussions of neglecting regular check-ups, proactive health management not only saves money but also ensures an enhanced quality of life.

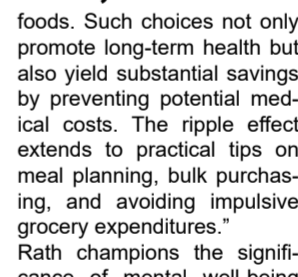
As we usher in 2024, Rath positions adopting these five habits not merely as resolutions but as investments in a life where well-being forms the bedrock of financial stability. The Aviva India CEO leaves individuals with a compelling message - investing in personal health is investing in a prosperous financial future. Let these habits be the compass guiding us toward a future where health and wealth thrive hand in hand.

Aviva India CEO's Guide to Budgeting for Wellness in 2024 Asit Rath, CEO & MD, Aviva India

Pune: As the dawn of the New Year beckons, individuals worldwide embark on a journey of resolutions, vowing to prioritize health and wellness. In a transformative discourse, Asit Rath, CEO & MD of Aviva India, emphasizes the symbiotic relationship between financial well-being and a healthy lifestyle, urging individuals to view wellness not as an expense but as a strategic investment in their future.

Rath advocates a paradigm shift, asserting that investing in a healthy and fit body is tantamount to securing a robust financial future. "By adopting a healthy lifestyle, individuals can curtail healthcare costs, potentially leading to reduced insurance premiums. Enhanced physical health also translates to increased productivity, thereby elevating earning potential and extending career longevity."

Rath envisions a scenario where simple shifts, such as replacing a daily cigarette habit with a brisk walk, transform expenses into invaluable investments in personal well-being. The CEO underscores the economic benefits of maintaining a healthy diet, positing that it not only contributes to well-being but also serves as a prudent financial strategy. "Prioritizing nutritious, home-cooked meals over frequent dining out or processed



foods. Such choices not only promote long-term health but also yield substantial savings by preventing potential medical costs. The ripple effect extends to practical tips on meal planning, bulk purchasing, and avoiding impulsive grocery expenditures."

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Indore student leader Ravi Chaudhary met Bageshwar Dham Sarkar

Pune (Voice news service):- Ravi Chaudhary is a student leader of Indore. Who works for the welfare of students for every moment. Yesterday, Ravi Choudhary went to Bageshwar Dham and met Peethadishwar Shri Dharendra Krishna Shastriji. He was very happy to see Ravi Choudhary's awareness towards Sanatan Dharma and he offer him sweets with his own hand and also blessed him by giving him his own wearing Dupatta. Shastriji said we will also organize a Darbar for the students in Indore.

Ravi Chaudhary has also been the President of IPS College, Indore from year 2018 to 2022.



And he support in the protest against the Atrocities happening in Indore and elsewhere for the students welfare.

Ravi Choudhary says, I would never tolerate that parents who face such difficult dilemmas that they educate their children and send them to college but

then the same student gets exploited at the doors of the college's. Therefore, wherever there is injustice to students, I will stand by them and leave all my work and go there and try to resolve that problem quickly and put end to it so that in future student don't face such problem again

Manju Rani, Sakshi storm into quarter

The 2019 World championship silver medalist Manju Rani (48kg) and two-time youth world champion Sakshi (57kg) maintained their impressive form by advancing to the quarterfinals on day four of the 7th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships at the GBU Indoor Stadium in Greater Noida. Representing the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), Manju Rani showcased her experience and

skills against Guddi of Chandigarh as she secured a 5-0 victory. In another matchup, Sakshi of SSCB faced Telangana's Refa Mohid in a round-of-16 bout. Sakshi's aggressive approach and hard-hitting punches were too difficult to handle for Refa which resulted in a referee stopping the contest in Sakshi's favour in round one. Sakshi will go head-to-head against Aarti Mehra of Chandigarh in the quarterfinals.

“Cinépolis Strengthens Cinematic Footprint; launches New Multiplex in Rajkot, Bolstering Presence with 27 Screens Across Gujarat”

Pune (Voice news service):- Cinépolis, India's first international cinema exhibitor is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its new multiplex, Cinépolis Vandana Heritage, in the vibrant city of Rajkot, Gujarat. This milestone marks the first international cinema chain in the city, adding a touch of world-class entertainment to the local landscape. This property is another milestone that strengthens the brand's positioning amongst its patrons and associates in the premium multiplex industry. Nestled at the core of Rajkot, Cinépolis Vandana Heritage is poised to redefine the movie-watching experience for the city's residents. Situated within the Vandana Mall, this remarkable addition shares its space alongside renowned brands like Reliance Trends and Digital. The cinema's standalone structure further solidifies its commitment to

enriching the local entertainment landscape. Cinépolis Vandana distinguishes itself through exceptional features designed to deliver an unparalleled cinematic journey. Among its standout attractions is the stadium-style seating, ensuring an unobstructed view of the screen for all guests, enhancing the movie experience to an unprecedented level of delight. Boasting a layout of four screens, with two screens on each floor, Cinépolis Vandana offers an exceptional experience filled with entertainment and fun, catering to a wide range of preferences. The captivating RealD 3D immersion elevates the movie-viewing experience, transporting films into a whole new dimension, bringing them to life in an unprecedented manner. Complementing this, the state-of-the-art Dolby 7.1 sound system further enriches the auditory journey,

guaranteeing impeccably clear sound, dialogues, and soundtracks that truly engage your senses. For those seeking culinary delights while enjoying the show, Cinépolis Vandana offers an exquisite selection of gourmet food choices, including tantalizing snacks and beverages to satisfy your palate. Boasting an impressive seating capacity accommodating over 800 guests, it becomes the ideal setting for gatherings, parties, and memorable moments with loved ones. Cinépolis Vandana underscores its commitment to delivering an exceptional cinematic experience through its cutting-edge laser projection technology. This advanced system ensures that movies are exhibited in immaculate quality, showcasing the sharpest and most vivid visuals, presenting an unforgettable visual spectacle to its audience. Speaking on the launch,

Mr. Devang Sampat, CEO, Cinépolis India said "With Cinépolis Vandana, we are dedicated to providing an exceptional and unforgettable experience. Our focus is on delivering a fusion of entertainment and fun, setting ourselves apart from the competition, and ensuring Rajkot receives the entertainment it truly deserves. We invite the people of Rajkot to be a part of this cinematic journey at Cinépolis Vandana, where unforgettable experiences and treasured memories await. Be prepared to immerse yourself in a world of entertainment, luxury, and excitement." Cinépolis Vandana sets a new standard for entertainment, with its blend of cutting-edge technology, comfort, and gourmet delights, making it the ultimate destination for movie enthusiasts. Vandana offers the allure of a classic Cinépolis cinema and boasts state-of-the-art features.

Nikon India announces the commencement of the third edition of its flagship contest – Wedding Film Awards Season 3

Pune (Voice news service):- Nikon India Private Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Nikon Corporation, has announced the launch of its third edition of the flagship Wedding Film Awards, an annual digital contest to celebrate the outstanding talent of the wedding cinematographers/videographers. The contest provides a platform to showcase their participants' talent and gain industry-wide recognition. The one-and-a-half-month-long contest having commenced from December 1st to continue till 15th January 2024 is aimed towards establishing Nikon as the go to brand for professional and amateur wedding videographers. Themed 'Candidly Yours', Wedding Film Awards 2023 is aimed at encouraging the professional cinematographers and videography enthusiasts to showcase their creativity and visual storytelling prowess. Participants stand a chance to win exciting prizes worth INR 6 lakhs. Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director, Nikon India Private Ltd, said, "Nikon stands as a brand that resonates with India's exceptional photographers and videographers. With the resounding success of two prior editions, we're thrilled to announce the third edition of the Wedding Film Awards—a

celebrated contest.. We look forward to recognizing and honouring the remarkable efforts of videographers who skillfully encapsulate the essence of weddings in their own perspective. This platform not only unites India's passionate videography community but also aims to foster a network among videographers nationwide, inspiring them to showcase their artistic brilliance using Nikon cameras as their storytelling medium. The Wedding Film Awards serve as a catalyst, empowering cinematographers, and videographers to explore new horizons and articulate their unique interpretations of love and eternal bond in the most artistic and aesthetically pleasing way." The jury for the contest comprises Nikon Creators who are some of the top professional wedding cinematographers and videographers in the industry including award-winning cinematographer Mr. Rig Biswas, Ms. Simran Kaur, Co-founder of I Don't Say Cheese, and Mr. Akash Agarwal, co-founder of WeddingNama. **Submission of entries:** The contest is already open for entries from 1st December and shall remain open for entries till January 15th 2024, for all Indian wedding cinematography professionals and amateur videographers who would love to showcase

their talent for visual storytelling. Participants regardless of age or gender, are welcome to enter the contest. Participants can participate in the contest through Nikon India Website (https://www.capturewithnikon.in/wfa_s3/*T&C) and submit their entries featuring up to 60-seconds of video shot using Nikon cameras and lenses along with a max 100-word caption describing why the video uniquely captures the essence of the wedding. Alternatively, participants can follow the same process and upload their entries shot by Nikon cameras and lenses on their Instagram account with a #WFA3CandidlyYours tagging Nikon India (@NikonIndiaOfficial). **Exciting Prizes:** Not only do the winners stand a chance to win exciting prizes worth INR 6 lakhs but they also get a unique opportunity to receive nation-wide recognition and popularity within the imaging industry. The winner of the WFA contest will be bestowed with Nikon's most adaptable mirrorless camera, Nikon Z f along with Nikkor Z 28-75mm f/2.8 lens (worth up to INR 2,66,990.00/-). The first runner up will receive Nikon Z 6II along with Nikkor Z 24-70mm f/4 S lens (worth up to INR 2,04,996.00/-). And the second runner up will receive Nikon Z 50 with



NIKOR Z DX 18—140mm f/3.5-6.3 VR (worth up to INR 1,28,490.00/-). These products are among Nikon's best-selling models in the Indian market and will propel the winners to take their skills a notch higher. This commitment to excellence extends beyond technology. The videography industry has transformed significantly in the recent decade with creative storytelling turning into a highly marketable art form. With the third edition of its renowned Wedding Film Awards, Nikon India takes a step further towards fostering a thriving community of videographers. This prestigious platform grants creators the unique opportunity to showcase their remarkable talent and enrich their portfolios for the world to witness. Through this initiative, Nikon India empowers videographers to not only elevate their careers but also contribute to the advancement of the art form itself. The winners of Wedding Film Awards shall be announced by the mid of February 2024.

Justice Mukul Mudgal (Rtd) takes helm as Chairman of the Ethics and Governance Committee for Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2

Pune (Voice news service):- Ultimate Kho Kho, India's trailblazing professional Kho Kho league, proudly announces the esteemed appointment of Justice Mukul Mudgal (Rtd) as the Chairman of the Ethics and Governance Committee for Season 2. This strategic move underscores the league's steadfast commitment to fostering ethical standards and implementing global governance practices within the realm of sports. Renowned for its groundbreaking approach in transforming the indigenously sport into a captivating television spectacle, the Ultimate Kho Kho continues to set new standards by welcoming Justice Mukul Mudgal into a leadership role. A distinguished legal luminary, Justice Mudgal brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the league's governance framework, aligning it seamlessly with international benchmarks. Justice Mukul Mudgal's role as the Chairman of the Ethics and Governance

Committee is of paramount importance, ensuring the league adheres to the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and integrity. His tenure will see a dedicated focus on incorporating best financial practices and developing a governance framework that aligns with global standards, further solidifying the league's reputation as a beacon of professionalism. Notably, Justice Mudgal, who led the Supreme Court-appointed committee in the independent inquiry into allegations of corruption and spot-fixing in the Indian Premier League in 2014, currently serves as the head of FIFA's Governance and Review Committee. His distinguished background, alongside committee members in Hockey Legend, Aslam Sher Khan and Arjuna Awardee, Sushma Golwalkar, instills confidence in the Ethics and Governance Committee (EGC), which will be responsible for maintaining the highest standards for the game and monitoring

issues related to governance, anti-corruption, anti-doping, and more. Season 2 of the Ultimate Kho Kho, unfolded in Cuttack on December 24, 2023 and will continue till January 13, 2024, which promises to be a spectacular showcase of exceptional talent and thrilling matches. Now, with Justice Mukul Mudgal's guidance, the league reaffirms its heightened commitment to ethical and governance principles. In response to his appointment, Justice Mukul Mudgal conveyed his view, saying, "I look forward to actively contributing to the development of ethical standards and governance protocols of Ultimate Kho Kho, enhancing fair play. I am committed to making significant contributions to formulating principled norms, ultimately raising the league's standing. It's a dynamic game which needs to be characterized by fair play." Ultimate Kho Kho CEO and League Commissioner Tenzing Niyogi shared insights into the formation

of the EGC, stating, "Our objective is to ensure fair play while maintaining the highest level of integrity. With experienced, responsible, and objective committee members such as Justice Mukul Mudgal, we have tremendous confidence in the league's future success." The second edition of the league will witness six teams — Chennai Quick Guns (owned by KLO Sports), Gujarat Giants (Adani Sportslines), Mumbai Khiladis (Punit Balan Group), Odisha Juggernauts (Government of Odisha), Rajasthan Warriors (Capri Global Group) and Telugu Yoddhas (GMR Sports) — backed by top Indian corporate and sports investors, compete for the coveted crown. A total of 145 players from across the country showcasing their skills at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Cuttack as the final will be played on January 13, 2024. The exciting live action will be broadcasted on Sony Sports Network's channels streamed on Sony LIV.

Jaismine, Arundhati ease into quarters at 7th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships

Pune (Voice news service):- The 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Jaismine (60kg) and former youth world champion Arundhati Choudhary (66kg) registered victories on the third day to enter the quarter-finals of the ongoing 7th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships at the GBU Indoor Stadium in Greater Noida. Representing SSCB, Jaismine showcased her experience as she secured a commanding 5-0 victory over Thongam Kunjarani Devi of Manipur in the round of 16 bout. Jaismine will now face Poonam Kaithwas of Maharashtra in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, the former youth world champion Arundhati went head to head against Amita of All India Police. Arundhati's skilset and power-packed punches were on display as she secured a 5-0 victory in the bout. The boxer will be now up against Komalpreet Kaur of Punjab in the quarterfinals. In other significant bouts, Sakshi (57kg) of SSCB faced Jyoti of Delhi in the round of 32 match. The match was closely contested until Sakshi unleashed a flurry of punches, ultimately winning the bout as the referee stopped the contest in the third round. She will face off against Refa Mohid of Telangana



in the round of 16. Haryana's Saweety Boora (81kg) went up against Kanishka of UP in an exciting contest. The 2023 World Championship gold medalist displayed her prowess as she defeated her opponent with the referee stopping the contest

in round 3. She will face Saie Davkhar of Maharashtra in the quarterfinals. The ongoing prestigious tournament, organised by the Boxing Federation of India, has been witnessing the participation of more than 300 boxers competing in 12 categories.

Punit Balan Group owned Mumbai Khiladis onboard 5 major brands for Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2; secures INR 8.30 Crore+ in sponsorship

Pune (Voice news service):- Mumbai Khiladis, the powerhouse team owned by Punit Balan Group (PBG), has roped in five major sponsors for the ongoing Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2. With this major brand handshake, the franchise has garnered a combined sponsorship amount exceeding INR 8.30 Crores which reflects the growing popularity and commercial appeal of indigenous sports such as Kho Kho in India. Mumbai Khiladis will witness a prominent sports news portal, 1XBat join as the Title Sponsor for the team and the logo will prominently feature on the front of their jersey. Mylab Discovery Solutions Pvt Ltd, a leading dynamic biotechnology company based out of Pune has come on board as the Powered by Sponsor and will be featured on the back of the team's jersey. Generic Engineering Construction and Projects Limited, a BSE and NSE-listed prominent construction company and pharmaceutical distribution company, Pharm Deal, Pune will act as the team's associ-

ate sponsors, their logos will feature on the jersey sleeves. Additionally, the well-known private aviation company, Jet Fleet Aviation, has also joined forces with the team as an associate sponsor, with its branding being positioned at the nape of the neck. Expressing his enthusiasm for the enormous sponsorship that Mumbai Khiladis have secured with a record-breaking value, Punit Balan, Chairman & Managing Director of the PBG stated, "The significant sponsorship that we have secured is a testament to the meteoric rise as well as the interest that non-cricketing sports in this country are generating. Moreover, it also highlights the burgeoning and untapped potential that traditional games like Kho Kho have. Ultimate Kho Kho has been able to propel this homegrown sport to becoming a mainstream sports league and among the top three in India by engaging with a target audience cutting across the hinterland as well as urban India. We are confident this is just the beginning and Mum-

bai Khiladis will be a flag bearer in promoting the sport and being a catalyst in its continued growth not just in India but globally." Showcasing its commitment to the development of sports in the country, the Punit Balan Group (PBG) has already invested in nine sporting leagues across India and globally. They also support nearly 60 budding sports talents pan India. The sponsorship amount received by Mumbai Khiladis marks a significant milestone not just for the team but also for the league, Ultimate Kho Kho, which is just in its second season and sets a new standard for indigenous sports leagues in India. "The Punit Balan Group has always believed that investing in non-cricketing sports is the key to sustainability, and our values closely align with those of our sponsors. With a shared vision to uplift indigenous sports, we are dedicated to contributing toward creating a sustainable ecosystem for non-cricketing sports to prosper in India," added Punit Balan. According to the 'India

Sports Sponsorship Report 2023' by GroupM, Sports Sponsorship in India recorded a figure of INR 5907 Cr (\$Mn 748) in 2022 with a growth of 105%. Emerging sports witnessed an overall revenue of INR 1503 Cr (\$Mn 190), which in YoY terms represents an incremental value of INR 829 Cr (\$Mn 104). Mumbai Khiladis, comprising standout talents including Captain Aniket Pote, defender Pritam Chougule and all-rounder Subhasis Santra, will face the Gujarat Giants in their second match of the season today on December 26. Promoted by Amit Burman in collaboration with the Kho Kho Federation of India, Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 is taking place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha with live coverage on Sony Sports Network's channels and live streaming on Sony LIV daily at 7 PM onwards.

First poster of upcoming Marathi film “Khavis” released



Pune (Voice news service):- The first poster of the upcoming Marathi film "Khavis" was released today by NCP Chief Shradchandraji Pawar sir. The film is produced by Amol Ghodke and Shrinivas Kulkarni, and directed by Aniket Ghadge. No information has been re-

leased yet about the cast of the film. Aniket Ghadge has previously directed the film "College Diary" in a very dark style. The poster of the film shows a skull, a black doll, and a lemon with turmeric and vermilion on it. The poster makes the film look mysterious and intriguing.

The producers said while releasing the poster, "Khavis will be a different and thought-provoking film. The shooting of the film is underway in Konkan and we have worked hard on the story of the film. We are confident that the audience will definitely like this film."

The story of the film is not yet clear, but the poster suggests that the film will have something mysterious and intriguing. The producers say that the shooting of the film is underway in a village in Konkan and we are trying to bring the film to the audience soon.

Gujarat Giants ease past Rajasthan Warriors to begin Ultimate Kho Kho

Pune (Voice news service):- Gujarat Giants showcased a complete performance in attack and defence as they defeated Rajasthan Warriors 41-30 in their first match of the Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. P Narasayya contributed to

the Giants' win with 8 points while Sanket Kadam and Suyash Gargate notched up 6 points each in the match. Shubham Thorat, Abhinandan Patil and Akshay Bhangare defended brilliantly for more than 6.53 minutes to earn crucial dream run bonus points for the winning team. Promoted by Amit Burman in collabo-

ration with the Kho Kho Federation of India, Ultimate Kho Kho became a huge hit in the first season, emerging as India's third-largest non-cricket league in terms of television viewership. It also became the first Indian sports league to secure Series A funding, courtesy of the UK-based BNP Group. Guja-

rat Giants stayed on the top of the game from the get-go as they earned a dream run in the first turn, allowing Rajasthan Warriors to get only 14 points. They maintained their positive intent when they switched to chase and notched up 22 points to obtain a big lead in the first inning.

Manju, Sonia shine as eight boxers from RSPB storm into semifinals

Pune (Voice news service):- Led by Manju Rani (48kg) and Sonia Lather (57kg), eight boxers from the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) stormed into the semifinals of the 7th

Elite Women's National Boxing Championships held at the GBU Indoor Stadium in Greater Noida. Besides Manju and Sonia, Anamika (50kg), Jyoti (52kg), Shiksha (54kg),

Anupama (70kg), Nandini (75kg), Nupur (81+kg) have guaranteed medals for the RSPB. In the 48kg bout, RSPB's Manju Rani displayed dominance over Delhi's Sanjana, claiming a

5-0 verdict from the judges. Manju will face All India Police's (AIP) Minakshi in the semis. Sonia Lather of RSPB, the 2016 World Championship silver medalist

Suryadatta's Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordiya conferred with the 'International Atal Award 2023' by Atal Foundation, New Delhi

Pune (Voice news service):- Professor Dr. Sanjay B. Chordiya, Founder President and Chairman of Suryadatta Education Foundation conferred with the Most Prestigious 'International Atal Award 2023' for his exemplary contribution in the field of Education & Social Service on the occasion of Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary. These awards has been given at the hands of Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Munjapara, Minister of State for AYUSH and Minister of State for Woman and Child Development, Hon'ble Shri Shyam Jaju Former Vice President of BJP & Ms Aparna Singh, the National President of the Atal Foundation on December 25th by Atal Foundation, New Delhi. On the occasion of Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary on December 25th, Atal Foundation, in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Museum in New Delhi, organized the Atal Gaurav Samman for the third time and, for the first time, the International Atal Award. The event marked third edition of the Atal Gaurav Awards and the inaugural Atal International Awards. Out of various applications received from individuals across the country, 35 were selected for the Atal Gaurav Awards, and 15 candidates from different countries were chosen for the Atal International Awards. Notable figures present at the event included Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Munjapara, Minister of State for AYUSH and Minister of State for Wom-



an and Child Development. BJP Former Vice President leader Hon'ble Shri Shyam Jaju, renowned astrologer Rajesh Ojha, Shri Bamba Lal Divakar, Shri Bagish Kumar Goswami (Peethadheeshwar, Dwarkadhish), Uday Mahurkar (Information Commissioner, Government of India), and Thakur Hukum Singh Bhati, Chairman of Haryana State Cooperative Apex Bank. Guests honored recipients of Atal Gaurav Awards and Atal International Awards. During this event, individuals who have excelled in their work following the path of Atal Ji are honored with the Atal Gaurav Samman. This year, the International Atal Award is also being introduced, featuring selections from applications received from various countries. The committee for the selection process, headed by the Chairperson of the Atal Foundation, Mrs. Aparna Singh, includes Mr. Sukant Saha as the committee chairman, Vice Chairman Ramesh Bhutada, Secretary Priyadarshini, Sandeep Lal, and Neilpatrav. This committee, formed by Mrs. Aparna

Singh, has played a crucial role in selecting deserving individuals from the received applications. This event is unique in itself, The Atal Foundation is actively engaged in service activities across all 27 states and union territories of India. The national team, including prominent figures such as Babu Mansuri Amroha, Babil Hapud Tyagi, Pradeep Chaudhary, and others, has made noteworthy contributions. The Atal Foundation operates from Jammu and Kashmir to Kerala, and from Sikkim to Gujarat. It diligently works along the path outlined by the venerable Vajpayee Ji, spreading awareness of government policies and providing services to individuals even in the remotest corners of the country. Aparna Singh, the National President of the Atal Foundation, said, "Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee's legacy is a guiding light for our nation. Through the International Atal Awards 2023, we are committed to highlighting his enduring spirit on the global stage. Atal Ji's principles and

vision transcend boundaries, and through this prestigious program, we are uniting people from around the world to celebrate his remarkable contributions to humanity. Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Munjapara talked about the vision of becoming a global leader by 2047, inspired by Atal Ji. He praised the Atal Foundation for its commendable work in advancing the country's interests. Hon'ble Shri Shyam Jaju acknowledged the foundation's efforts and highlighted the transformative leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Renowned astrologer Rajesh Ojha reflected on Atal Ji's teachings, emphasizing the importance of staying calm in life. He commended the Atal Foundation for its contribution to society. Aparna Singh, the National President of the Atal Foundation, expressed satisfaction with the foundation's role in realizing Atal Ji's dreams. Krishna Kumar Shrestha, Member of Parliament from Bara, Nepal, received the Atal International Award in the category of "Diplomatic Peace". Toni Il Supsong from South Korea, recognized at the international level, affirmed his support for Atal Ji's principles and others. Congratulations to Professor Dr. Sanjay B Chordiya Founder President & Chairman : Suryadatta Education Foundation on behalf of students, teachers and non-teaching staff, 90000+ alumni across the Globe and all other stakeholders of Suryadatta Group of Institutes.

Adv. Ujjwal Nikam's judicial contribution will be written in golden letters

Pune (Voice news service):- Internationally renowned public prosecutor & lawyer Padma Shree Adv. Ujjwal Nikam awarded with 'Suryadatta Suryabhushan National Award 2023' for his outstanding contribution in the field of public service and law, as well as important performance in various important cases. The award consists of a trophy with a map of India, a special scarf made by the students, a gold medal and a citation. Founder President & Chairman of Suryadatta Education Foundation, Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordiya presented this award to Adv. Ujjwal Nikam. Adv. Nikam has also been honored with Suryadatta National Award in past. Commissioner of Police of Pimpri Chinchwad, Vinay Kumar Choubey, Principal of Suryadatta Law College, Dr. Mithlesh Verma, Prof Ketaki Bapat, Prof. Monica Sehrawat and other dignitaries were

present on the occasion at Bansi Ratna Auditorium, Bavdhan campus. Adv. Nikam also interacted with students, faculty of the Suryadatta Law College. This award has been given to former President of India, Ramnath Kovind, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Scientist Dr. K Sivan, Socialist Vajubhai Wala, General (Rtd) Dr. Dattatray Shekhar, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shyam Jaju, MP Supriya Sule, State Minister Chandrakant Patil, Dr. Shirrang Limaye, Dr. Shankuntala Kale, Dr. Chandrakant Kokate, IPS Vinay Kumar Choubey & others in the past. Adv. Nikam expressed his gratitude towards Suryadatta & shared his journey with the students. About his childhood, schooling, college life, lawyer ship etc. He also shared his experiences of various cases which he handled. He said, "I didn't want to be a lawyer. So I didn't have



any goal to become a special PP and lawyer and do great work. But I can say that I took advantage of the opportunity that came. If a common man starts talking rationally, we say 'you start talking like a lawyer. Self-confidence and rational presentation is the true identity of a lawyer.' Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordiya

congratulated Adv. Nikam and said, "Adv. Nikam's judicial contribution will be written in golden letters. He is known as an excellent jurist and a good human being. He worked as special public prosecutor in various high-profile and important cases. He has shown how a lawyer can serve the country."

State-Level Award Ceremony Celebrates Excellence in Social Service and Innovation

Pune (Voice news service):- Monday, the prestigious State Level Award Ceremony took place at Modak Auditorium, honoring outstanding individuals and organizations for their commendable work in diverse fields. Honorable Surya Pujari, Shrikrishna Sawant, and other esteemed dignitaries graced the event. The ceremony focused on recognizing the remarkable contributions made by women and organizations that have made a significant impact on society. Among the recipients, two standout entities, Shreyas Foundation, and Go Degree, were honored with the coveted Samaj Ratna Award for their outstanding efforts in the field of social service. Go Degree has actively pro-



motated social welfare through its innovative initiative, the Cow Degree and Farmers Progress Foundation. The foundation, in its pursuit of excellence, has been diligently working for the past six years to address societal challenges and bring about positive change.

The senior members of Go Degree present at the event included Mr. Jayant Shah (President), Jinen Shah, and Neha Gaikwad, who were joined by social workers Akash Jadhav, Miss Riddhi Shah, and Somnath Bhumkar. Their presence added to the grandeur of the event

and highlighted the collective commitment of the organization's members toward fostering positive change. The award ceremony also shed light on the impactful work carried out by other organizations. Notable mentions include the Pulse Foundation, which provides essential items and health camps for people sleeping on footpaths in Pune cities. Such initiatives contribute significantly to the well-being and progress of society. The State Level Award Ceremony not only celebrated the achievements of these inspiring individuals and organizations but also served as a platform to encourage others to actively participate in initiatives that contribute to the welfare of society.

Tourism in Madhya Pradesh to wear a new look in 2024



Pune (Voice news service):- In an effort to boost tourism the Madhya Pradesh government has mapped an innovative strategy for 2024. Besides introducing new elements, the government plans to revamp and broaden the existing schemes to add more vibrancy to the sector. Cruise tourism, all women rides, safety of women, wellness and rural vacations will be an integral part of the 2024 trajectory. "We designed a multi-pronged strategy for tourism in 2023. In 2024, the plan is to make it more holistic, inclusive, sustainable, eco-friendly and adventure packed," says Principal Secretary Tourism Sheo Shekhar Shukla. Cruise Tourism, New Trails "We have a buoyant plan for cruise tourism in 2024. The main attraction will be the nearly 130 km inter-state cruise on river Narmada from the Statue of Oneness in Omkareshwar to the Statue of Unity in Gujarat. Floating jetties are already being put in place for this," says Shukla who is also the Managing Director of Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board. The multi-option, multi-destination cruises, will be punctuated with rural experiences in between the two destinations. Elaborating on other cruise projects lined up for 2024 Shukla said that plans were afoot to link the Rajhat Dam near Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh to Deogarh in Uttar Pradesh. "Long distance, in-

tra-state cruises will be a new attraction for 2024," he added. Intra-state cruises from Mikal Resort in Bargi near Jabalpur to Tindini in Mandla district, Dharaji in Dewas to Sallani Tapu east of Omkareshwar, Sanjit village to the tent city of Gandhi Sagar are also on the anvil. The Tawa-Madhavi cruise will be given a facelift by adding new experiences. Identifying and developing new trekking trails in various buffer zones of National Parks/Sanctuaries will form part of the 2024 tourism strategy. There will be promotion of state through different biking trails and car rallies. A special attraction - The Queens on the Wheel—an all women seven-day biking event – slated for February 2024 will take the riders on an adventurous ride from Bhopal to Orcha to Bhopal via Chanderi, Kuno, Gwalior, Mitawali, Padavali, Bateshwar, Orcha and Khajuraho. "We have elaborate plans to develop many new off-beat destinations thereby leveraging the USP of our State." Catalyzing Connectivity, Wellness Vacations In a bid to enhance connectivity between the various destinations, the tourism department is working to reintroduce small aircrafts under PPP. "This is the best time to re-start this as the tourism sector has now bounced back after a post pandemic lull," adds Shukla.

The 2024 calendar will have retreats for yoga and meditation. "Wellness vacations offers much beyond diet and physical nurturing. The retreats will have a number of creative offerings. I am confident that the endeavor will spiral the tourist graph of the state," says Shukla. The plan is to host 12 such retreats in the first year followed by 24 and 36 in the second and third consecutive years. The retreats would be hosted in the select hotels owned by the Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation. Offbeat destinations, Rural Tourism In 2024 plans are up the sleeve to connect at least 10 unexplored destinations with the mainstream tourism. The process for tapping the offbeat destinations had kick-started in 2023 and in 2024 this will take a more robust shape. "The thrust will be on connectivity and infrastructure development of these destinations. We want to map a holistic development of these places," maintains Shukla adding: "The concept of building glamping sites with multifarious immersive experiences around these destinations had started in 2023. In 2024, besides increasing the number of tent cities we will make them more tourist friendly." While the contours of Rural tourism were sketched during pandemic days, this will be widened in 2024. Maintaining that the number

of home stays would be increased to more than 500 in 2024 he said: "We would be introducing new village life experiences that are innovative and in sync with the rural life." Shukla said that safe destinations for women will be a priority and various initiatives were underway for mass skilling of women in hospitality related job roles to increase their strength in various front line jobs. "The Board has already trained more than 4000 women and in 2024 we propose to absorb more of them in the hotel and travel industry." BOX An upswing for MP tourism in 2023 After battling an inclement weather due to the pandemic, tourism in Madhya Pradesh bounced back in 2023, thanks to the steadfast efforts made by the state government. Introduction of new circuits, festivals and setting of tent cities at offbeat destinations, providing rural experiences were some of the hallmarks of 2023. The first editions of Kuno and Chanderi festivals got a good jumpstart while the Mandu and the Gandhi Sagar Floating Festival made novel ways to attract visitors including the sprawling ultra-luxurious tent cities built around these destinations "Our objective for starting the festivals at Kuno and Chanderi was to knit tourism with culture and wild life. We have got a good feedback from tourists," says Shukla.

Symbiosis Skills Universities Forge Strategic Partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd



Pune (Voice news service):- Symbiosis Skills Universities (Symbiosis Skills and Professional University, Pune and Symbiosis University Applied Sciences, Indore), took a significant step towards enhancing education and skilling opportunities for students by signing a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) with PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd (PwC). Honourable Pro-Chancellor, Dr. Swati Mujumdar, represented Symbiosis Skills Universities, while Mr. Siddharth Mehta and Mr. Sanjeev Parker represented PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd. The signing ceremony, was attended by key representa-

tives from te both organizations. The objective of this MOU is to explore the opportunity to collaborate in the skilling and education space to create opportunities for students. It is with great enthusiasm Symbiosis skills Universities and PwC embark on this collaborative journey through the signing of this (MOU). The MOU outlines the framework for cooperation between Symbiosis Skills Universities and PwC with a focus on creating an opportunity to collaborate in the skilling and education space for students & also providing a certification programme based on India Tax - GST, Customs,

and Transfer Pricing Program to the students of school of Banking and Financial Services, insurance of Kiwale and Indore campus. The collaboration between these esteemed institutions represents a commitment to elevating the educational experience for students, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the dynamic professional landscape. This strategic partnership aligns with the vision of both Symbiosis Skills Universities and PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd to contribute to the development of skilled and competent professionals in various sectors.

MIT-ADT University and Kafila Adventures Forge Transformative Partnership in Experiential Learning

Pune (Voice news service):- In a monumental stride towards holistic student growth and societal engagement, Kafila Adventures and MIT Art, Design, and Technology University have officially sealed a visionary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 1, 2024. The ceremonial event, held at MIT's campus, marked the inauguration of an ambitious partnership poised to redefine experiential learning through adventure initiatives for students. Kafila Adventures, an esteemed non-profit organization specializing in outdoor adventure activities, is renowned for curating safe, transformative outdoor experiences. Organizing expeditions, safaris, treks, backpacking tours, and various thrilling escapades, the organization's dedication to fostering an appreciation for nature while ensuring safety has garnered widespread acclaim. The collaboration outlined in the MoU encapsulates an array of initiatives designed to

cultivate leadership, promote social responsibility, facilitate knowledge exchange, and raise awareness of critical societal issues among students. Emphasizing an amalgamation of academic learning and experiential exploration, the partnership seeks to empower students by offering a diverse spectrum of adventurous activities aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 17. Prof. Dr. Mangesh Karad, the Executive President & Vice Chancellor of MIT Art, Design, and Technology University, expressed elation regarding the strategic alliance with Kafila Adventures during the signing ceremony. Prof. Dr. Karad highlighted the collaboration's potential to enrich students' educational journeys, fostering a conducive environment for comprehensive development. Through this collaboration, he underscored the university's commitment to nurturing academic prowess, physical fitness, and holistic growth.



Prof. Dr. Suraj Bhoyar, Associate Director of Student Affairs at MIT, welcomed esteemed dignitaries and elucidated the overarching objectives of the MoU. The alliance aims to integrate adventure-based learning into the academic framework, enabling students to engage in activities such as trekking, rock climbing, wilderness survival, cultural immersion, and environmental education. These endeavors are poised to instill invaluable skills like teamwork, resilience, cultural sensitivity, and environmental consciousness among students. The collaboration between

Kafila Adventures and MIT Art, Design, and Technology University heralds an era of immersive learning, bridging academia with real-world experiences. It sets a precedent for educational institutions to embrace holistic development by amalgamating adventure, societal engagement, and academic rigor. This pioneering partnership opens new avenues for student growth and exemplifies a profound commitment to shaping conscientious, well-rounded leaders of tomorrow. Stay tuned for updates on the transformative journey that lies ahead.

Medvedev, Rublev, Sofia power PBG Eagles to win World Tennis League 2023
Pune (Voice news service):-US Open Champion, Daniil Medvedev and 2023 Australian Open quarterfinalist Andrey Rublev led Punit Balan Group were bang on with the formidable combinations of players.

played at the Etihad Arena, UAE, the PBG Eagles defeated Team Kites 29-26 for the coveted trophy and winning purse. Punit Balan Group were bang on with the formidable combinations of players.

Despite losing their opening mixed doubles tie, where the Medvedev-Mirra Andreeva pair went down to Paula Badosa-Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-7 (5-7) in a tie-breaker, PBG Eagles returned with a bang to register victories in wom-

en's doubles, men's doubles and women's singles. Andreeva and Sofia Kenin defeated Badosa and Aryna Sabalenka overcame a stiff challenge to score a 7-5 win in the women's doubles category.

Innovative Solutions Shine at National Smart India Hackathon 2023

Pune (Voice news service):- The National Smart India Hackathon 2023, organized by the Innovation Cell of the Union Ministry of Education and AICTE, concluded with resounding success at the Sant Shri Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Vishwashant Dome, of MIT University of Art, Design and Technology, Pune. The competition showcased groundbreaking ideas from talented student teams, tackling challenges in diverse sectors.

The hardware group witnessed fierce competition, with standout performances from the winning teams in each category. 'Brigades' from Sri Ramakrishna College of Engineering, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, secured top honors in Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development.

'Novacode', hailing from Avinashilingam College of Home Science, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, emerged victorious in Med, Bio, Healthtech. In the Heritage & Culture



category, Innov-Sewage Disposal Machine, developed by the team from Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Podicherry, claimed the first position. 'Ionics', representing Sri Krishna College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, clinched the title in the Sports & Fitness group. 'U.P. STARS' from IIMT University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, showcased excellence in Smart Automation.

A total of 27 teams from states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ra-

jasthan, and Tamil Nadu were selected for the final round.

The five-day tournament featured rigorous evaluations by judges at various levels.

The distinguished presence of key figures such as AICTE Chairman T.G. Sitharaman, Prof. Dr. Sunita Karad, Utkarsh Mishra of Hero Moto corp, Bensely Zachariah of Fulcrum Digital, Praful Nikam, Dr. Abhay Jere, Pro-Vice chancellor Dr. Mohit Dubey, Registrar Dr. Mahesh Chopade, Nodel Centre Head Dr. Rekha Sugandhi, Dr. Suresh Kapre and other dignitaries added to the grandeur of the occasion.

AICTE Chairman T.G. Sitharaman commended the participants, noting that the innovations presented align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, 'Bharat@2047.' He emphasized the importance of research and problem-solving showcased through the Smart India Hackathon competition in addressing national challenges.

The winning teams were awarded a prize of one lakh rupees each by the Government of India, recognizing their outstanding contributions to innovation and problem-solving. The event not only celebrated the achievements of the talented students but also underscored the vital role initiatives like the Smart India Hackathon play in promoting research and finding practical solutions to real-world problems. The competition serves as a beacon for fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth, contributing to the nation's progress and development.

EKA Mobility joins forces with Mitsui and VDL Groep to create a leading global OEM in India



Pune (Voice news service):- EKA Mobility, a leading electric vehicles & technology company based in India, is thrilled to announce a partnership with Mitsui & Co., Ltd. (Japan) and VDL Groep (Netherlands). This strategic cooperation marks a significant milestone in the evolution of the Indian automotive industry, propelling India toward becoming a global hub for sustainable transportation. The alliance is set to establish most cutting edge global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in the region.

This is one of the largest and most significant partnerships in the new mobility segment in India bringing together the strengths and expertise of three leading automotive conglomerates in Asia & Europe to accelerate the development and adoption of innovative electric mobility solutions globally. Under the cooperation, EKA Mobility, known for its cutting-edge electric vehicles and comprehensive EV ecosystem, will receive significant and strategic investments from Mitsui, a global trading and investment company with a rich history of contributing to industrial innovation,

and technological support & equity partnership from VDL Groep, a leading Dutch technology and manufacturing company. The combined expertise and resources of the three entities will usher in a new era of sustainable transportation and manufacturing excellence.

Key Highlights of the cooperation: Strategic Investment: Mitsui & Co., Ltd. will make significant financial investments in EKA Mobility, enabling the company to scale up its manufacturing operations and expand its product portfolio. Mitsui will also provide support to EKA for exports to select emerging markets as well as establishment of systems & process.

Technological Leadership: As part of this partnership, VDL Bus & Coach, a subsidiary of VDL Groep and Europe's frontrunner in electric buses & coaches will support EKA Mobility by transfer of technology to produce electric buses in India for the Indian market.

Strengthening 'Make in India': The alliance is firmly aligned with the Indian government's 'Make in India' initiative, aimed at promoting local manufacturing and job creation.



Sustainability: The cooperation emphasizes a commitment to sustainability and environment conscious mobility solutions, furthering the reduction of carbon footprints. Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder & Chairman of EKA Mobility, expressed his views about the cooperation, stating, "This partnership with Mitsui and VDL Groep represents a significant step toward making India a global hub for electric vehicle manufacturing. We are proud to join forces with such distinguished partners who share our vision of sustainable, profitable & efficient transportation."

Nobuyoshi Umezawa, GM of Mobility Business Division in Mitsui & Co. India: "Through the cooperation of EKA, VDL, and Mitsui, we aim to contribute to 'Make in India' by leveraging EKA's excellent engineering and local network, and VDL's cutting-edge technological capabilities. Furthermore, we would like to utilize our Mitsui's global network to promote exporting EKA's competitive products to overseas markets and contribute to creating eco-friendly societies".

Rolf-Jan Zweep, CEO VDL Bus & Coach: "We

are delighted to partner with EKA Mobility and Mitsui. Although the basis of our high-quality development and manufacturing competences lie in north-western Europe, we see many opportunities in India, which is obviously a promising growth market. With this cooperation, we foresee especially many synergy benefits in the areas of procurement and development".

EKA Mobility is one of the commercial vehicle manufacturers approved under the Champion OEM Scheme & EV component manufacturing scheme of the Government of India's Auto PLI policy. EKA is the only Indian company offering end-to-end design, manufacturing & technology of new energy vehicles from scratch in India. The company has set up a state-of-the-art research, development, engineering & innovation center in Pune, Maharashtra, and has significantly grown its order book, with more than 500 electric buses and 5000+ electric light commercial vehicle orders in the pipeline. All these vehicles will be completely designed & manufactured in India, at EKA's proposed state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In last two years, the company has introduced electric city bus, staff carrier & school bus, 9 meter hydrogen fuel-cell electric bus, and is now all set to enter the last mile delivery with its range of e-LCVs designed & customized to suit Indian customers and businesses.

Pernod Ricard India deepens its commitment to 'Make in India', introduces first Indian Single Malt - Longitude77



Pune (Voice news service):- Pernod Ricard India, the global leader in spirits and wine, announced the launch of its first premium Indian single malt, Longitude77 -- made in India, for India and the world.

The brand is a tribute to Pernod Ricard India's legacy in the country and has been specially crafted for seekers of authentic contemporary Indian luxury. With their first Indian Single Malt, the company endeavours to redefine India's global prominence in the realm of authentic luxury and rich craftsmanship, while preserving the nation's artistic heritage. Paying homage to the country's diverse culture, landscape and terroir, Longitude77 has been meticulously crafted by Pernod Ricard's master distillers using locally sourced ingredients of the highest quality. Produced

in small batches in a distillery in Dindori, Nashik (Maharashtra), the launch personifies Pernod Ricard's steadfast commitment to India, its spirit of innovation and its focus on investing in the country as the company completes 30 years of its presence in India.

The brand's name is inspired by the longitude that runs through the length of India at 77° east and marks India's position on the world map. It reimagines an India of unparalleled luxury and sophistication, inspiring discerning consumers to discover and connect with their roots in unique and personally meaningful ways. Double matured in American Bourbon barrels and wine casks, the single malt has a natural, mahogany colour – a true testament to its ageing process. The bottle comes in a matte finish canister painted in Indigo, the colour that India gave to the world.

Commenting on the launch, Jean Touboul, CEO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "India is on the cusp of emerging as a powerhouse in the realm of authentic luxury and heritage

craft. As industry leaders, we are unwavering in our commitment to spearhead India's ascent in the luxury sector, championing the nation's rich heritage and unmatched artistry.

Furthering that vision, our diverse portfolio within the country reflects the Group's commitment to the 'Make in India' initiative. Denominating three decades of operations in India, this opportune moment marks the ideal occasion to introduce Longitude77, to celebrate the spirit of the country." Kartik Mohindra, Chief Marketing Officer & Head Global Business Development, Pernod Ricard India added, "Longitude77, our first Indian Single Malt, represents Pernod Ricard's deep-rooted respect for the country. We have ensured that the whisky is perfectly tailored to the Indian market and caters to the diverse palate of the Indian consumer. We are confident that this exceptional addition to our portfolio will be embraced by whisky enthusiasts and elevate their convivial experience. At the back of solid premiumization and our commitment to quality and innovation, we believe



that Longitude77 will be a game-changer for the Indian market."

As India continues to be categorized as one of the largest markets for whisky consumption globally (third after the United States of America and China), Pernod Ricard aims to truly illustrate its commitment to boosting local manufacturing, employment and local innovations in multiple categories starting with the entry into the single malt category, for driving diverse cohorts. With 97% of domestically produced brands, contributing to the growth trajectory of the country, and 30 years of rich legacy and operations in India, the company operates through its distillery in Nashik (Maharashtra) apart from 28 bottling sites across the country.

RACE Energy Expands Into International Markets

Pune (Voice news service):- RACE Energy, a deep-tech electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure company for battery swapping, announces its strategic foray into international markets, marking its pilot launch in Sri Lanka's Colombo with Lanka E-Mobility Solutions (Private) Limited (LeMS). This association will redefine the landscape of Sri Lanka's electric mobility through a novel battery swapping initiative, branded 'e-wheel' in Lanka.

The pilot launch with 25 vehicles and three swapping stations across Colombo sets the stage for a transformative journey in Sri Lanka's electric mobility landscape with an aim to expand across Galle and Kandy.

With plans to rapidly scale this program to 500 vehicles within the next 3-6 months, RACE's 'pay-as-you-go' solution and quick swapping process are poised to benefit 1.2 million of Sri Lanka's 'Tuk'

drivers. Arun Reyas, Co-Founder of RACE Energy, says, "We offer the most advanced, light, safe, and energy-dense swappable batteries in the market. The decision to venture into international markets like Sri Lanka and partner with LeMS, the largest three-wheeler player in the country, stems from the resonating market and environmental dynamics shared between India and Sri Lanka, in addition to the urgency for electric solutions in Lanka, which is currently facing petrol shortages. As we actively expand to other Indian markets, we hope to cross off more international markets to make EVs accessible and convenient to all."

Gautham Maheswaran, Co-Founder of RACE Energy, says, "Since establishing RACE in 2019, we have emerged as a leader in Hyderabad's EV market, catering to more than 50% of the region's EV segment

and facilitating over 1,000 daily swaps. As the first battery swapping company to receive the AIS 156 Phase-2 certifications, we always push towards setting new benchmarks in the industry. With the pilot in Sri Lanka, we hope to extend our instant swapping technology in India and beyond international waters to proliferate e-mobility adoption."

Shirendra Lawrence, Co-Founder and Director of Lanka e-Mobility Solutions (LeMS) stated, "We are delighted to make RACE Energy's advanced battery swapping technology accessible to the large population of three-wheeler owners in Sri Lanka. The entire conversion process, which includes the replacement of the conventional petrol engine with a brand-new electric motor and drivetrain, takes just two hours. Once converted, the vehicle can immediately start using our battery-swapping services. With Sri Lanka having



more three-wheelers per capita than even India, the birthplace of these vehicles, we at LeMS are not just providing 3-wheeler owners with a cost and time-effective option for electrification, but also making a significant positive impact on the environment."

RACE's technology enables discharged batteries to be swapped instantly, allowing users to stay on the road for longer periods. It also helps address critical challenges such as the high cost of vehicles, long charging times, and range anxiety whilst benefitting drivers. With a proven track record of completing 5 million green kilometres and enabling 1,000 swaps on its network daily, RACE is significantly impacting the EV space.

Year 2024: Economic resilience, industry reforms keep insurance sector buoyant

Pune (Voice news service):- Indian economy continued to show remarkable strength this year amid an evident global slowdown. This strength was largely driven by robust consumption, strong investment activity, and a burgeoning, aspirational consumer class.

The country's focus in recent years on bringing progressive policy reforms, and digital transformation has also supported this growth trajectory, enabling India to outperform its peers globally, particularly those in the Asian Pacific region.

Driven by this broader economic resilience, the insurance industry also stayed the course on growth. The year 2023 saw some market-moving developments for the industry including the government's decision to levy tax on income arising from insurance policies with an aggregated premium worth Rs. 5 Lakhs every year, starting April 2023.

There was a sustained emphasis on digitalization to reimagine customer and distributor manage-

ment processes. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) brought multiple reforms, focussing on 3 prominent themes – strengthening the ecosystem, improving accessibility & reach, and safeguarding policyholders' interest.

As we now look forward to 2024, I expect regulatory reforms to continue to steer the industry. There are 3 key trends likely to unfold in the new year:

Bima Trinity: IRDAI has unveiled Bima Trinity initiative as a part of its vision of Insurance For All by 2047. The primary objective of this initiative is building affordability and accessibility of insurance. This project, which includes Bima Sugam, Bima Vistaar and Bima Vaahak, is expected to take off next year at different intervals.

Bima Sugam, which is an online marketplace encompassing the entire customer journey from buying to servicing, is expected to make accessibility of insurance much easier. Bima Vistaar promises to be a revolutionary insurance product which seeks

to offer affordable protection to the masses. It is expected to be launched by January 2024. Bima Vaahak is a women-centric distribution channel at the Gram Sabha level that aims to empower women by educating them about the benefits of comprehensive insurance thus enabling their financial security.

Together, Bima Trinity will promote financial inclusivity, leverage digital to create an unmatched convenience, accessibility and simplification, affordable coverage, and foster higher participation of women in the insurance industry.

Product Innovation: The regulator has been placing a higher emphasis on the need for simplified, personalized products, aligned with the expectations of today's customer expects. It also introduced the Use & File norms to achieve this goal and has been expanding the scope of these guidelines this year. We expect the regulator to proactively push the industry to leverage technology including new-age solutions like AI, and ML to create better and

simplified solutions. We will see more niche products coming into the market in the medium-term as the overall efforts of the regulator through initiatives like state-level insurance project provide higher clarity of nuanced needs of the customers across geographies.

New players will get licensed: While the regulator has already licensed 3 new players this year, it is expected to allow entry of more companies going forward. IRDAI has said that it is looking to issue licenses to 20 new insurers in the immediate future. Additionally, the regulator is also likely to relook the capital requirements, making it entry of new players easy. With an increased competitiveness in the market, the sector will see more innovation, improved distribution models, automation and more.

One of the awaited developments of 2024 is that the government will table the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2022 as it has the potential to bring another round of positive reforms and bolster growth prospects of the industry.

BOB Travel Companion – HPCL Energie, Eterna & Premier Credit Card

Pune (Voice news service):- Embark on a journey like never before with BOB Card's stellar travel companions—HPCL Energie, Eterna and Premier Credit Cards. From elevating your airport experience with complimentary airport lounge access to adding more value to your money with extra rewards on your travel spends, to delighting you with fee waivers, you must know, each card is a powerhouse in its own right that caters to distinct travel preferences, promising unparalleled experiences and benefits. HPCL Energie: Happiness ka tank full.

The HPCL Bank of Baroda ENERGIE Credit Card stands as a co-branded offering, presenting noteworthy advantages for your fuel purchases. Unlock up to 80 litres of Free Fuel annually using the HPCL BoB Energie credit card through enticing rewards and fuel surcharge waivers. This credit card is specially designed for those who spend a lot of money on fuel and are always on the lookout to save some. However, this card is not limited to just fuel perks; it extends its benefits to various other categories such as travel, shopping, and movie ticket bookings. If you find yourself

gravitating towards HPCL petrol pumps, this credit card is your ticket to comprehensive savings and privileges. Dive into the details of this unique credit card to elevate your fuelling experience and beyond. Key Features and Benefits: Joining Fee: Rs. 499 + taxes, Annual Fee: Rs. 499 + taxes, Welcome Benefit: Enjoy 2,000 bonus reward points by spending Rs. 5000 or more within 60 days of card issuance. Fuel Benefits: Save up to 5% on fuel purchases at HPCL petrol pumps. Earn 24 reward points on every Rs. 150 spent at HPCL outlets, capped at 1,000 reward points

per statement cycle. Avail a 1% fuel surcharge waiver (up to Rs. 100) on transactions between Rs. 400 to Rs. 5,000 at HPCL outlets including fuel purchases made through the HP Pay app. Additional benefits offered exclusively by HPCL: Get an additional 1.5% cashback per Rs. 100 as payback points on fuel purchases through the HP Pay app. Reward Points: Earn 5X reward points on select categories: 10 reward points for every Rs. 150 spent on utility, grocery, and departmental stores. 2 reward points for every Rs. 150 spent on other categories.