



## Battery Smart Raises \$65m Series B Round led by LeapFrog Investments

Pune: Battery Smart, India's largest and fastest-growing battery swapping network for electric two- and three-wheelers, today announced it has raised \$65 million in a Series B funding round led by LeapFrog Investments, the pioneering profit with purpose firm. The equity round consisted of a mix of primary and secondary investments and saw participation from new and existing investors, including MUFG Bank, Panasonic, Ecosystem Integrity Fund (EIF), Blume Ventures, and British International Investment (BII). The exclusive financial advisor on the funding transaction was Illuminate Capital. Battery Smart will use the added capital to fuel its next phase of expansion by bringing its battery-as-a-service solution to more cities across India. Since the launch of Battery Smart's first swap station in New Delhi in June 2020, the company has rapidly scaled to 1000 stations across 30 cities, completing over 35 million swaps. Expanding its footprint nationwide, it has strategically set up stations in Tier 1, 2, and 3 cities. The company has been at the forefront of the battery swapping movement, empowering its over 45,000 active customers with convenient, low-carbon driv-

ing range. Its asset-light approach enables it to partner with Indian Small and Medium sized businesses (SMBs) and leverage their existing infrastructure to set up swap stations at a rapid pace, while also improving the livelihoods of local business owners. Speaking on the occasion, Pulkit Khurana, Co-Founder and CEO, Battery Smart, said, "We are thrilled to partner with LeapFrog Investments, MUFG Bank, and Panasonic, who bring extensive expertise across banking, climate strategy, and environmental sustainability. We are also profoundly grateful for the continued support from our existing investors- Tiger Global, Blume Ventures, EIF, and BII. Their combined support showcases the growing global confidence in battery swapping as an innovative electric mobility solution and the mission of Battery Smart to make electric mobility accessible and affordable for all. The fresh capital will enable us to accelerate our expansion, enhance our technology, and strengthen our market presence. By 2030, India's vehicle count is projected to grow to 200 million two-wheelers and 12 million three-wheelers. Battery Smart is a key player in this two and three-wheeler EV market.

## CII and EHL Group Collaboration builds on the Two years of success of VET by EHL Swiss Professional Diploma delivered at AISSMS Pune

Pune (Voice news service)- In a significant initiative for skill development in Indian hospitality undertaken by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), an 18-month Vocational Education and Training (VET) Professional Diploma program offered in collaboration by EHL Hospitality Business School of Switzerland and delivered at AISSMS, Pune. The program has now been running very successfully for the last two years with over 100 students on the verge of graduating and joining the industry. This year, we plan to induct 100 students at our VET by EHL AISSMS Pune Centre and over all 400+ students including our Chandigarh and Bangalore Centre. The duration of the program is 18-months out of which they are given a sound grounding of theory and practical in their area of specialization. The training at AISSMS is followed by an Advanced Certificate program and on-the-job training for 12 months at Select IHCL hotels. Mr. Praveen Roy, Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industry said: "The industry is poised for a 15-20% growth in hiring within the tourism and hospitality sector in India. CII, with its strategic tie-up with Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) and Academic



partnership with EHL Hospitality Business School, trains a large number of students with the help of EHL-certified trainers who are also department managers. This program is truly by the industry and for the industry and the students." Hospitality employers find the workforce being supplied below the industry's expectations. There is a definite need in India for globally recognized vocational training that can create a pool of talented hospitality professionals. The VET by EHL program help bridge the skill gap and strengthen India's position as the global hospitality workforce supplier. It will train the youth to world-class standards for careers in the hospitality industry, including hotels, airlines, cruise lines, and the catering and travel industry, not only in India but around the world. Dr. Sonali Jadhav, Principal, AISSMS College of Hotel

Management and Catering Technology, Pune who is a veteran in Hospitality Education and has written over 25 research papers in National and International Journals said: "We have been running VET by EHL Program for the last 2 years. The course content is very relevant to what is happening in the industry and the students, by the end of the course, are well prepared to join the industry and also excel in their field. There are 4 partners including AISSMS, IHCL, CII and Ecole Hotel de Lausanne (EHL)." Aman Aditya Sachdev, Director & Regional Head (South Asia, Middle East & Myanmar), EHL, said: "The VET by EHL program is based on principles of the world-renowned Swiss Competency Framework. It has been developed over a two-year period with the involvement of EHL subject matter experts and faculty members, as

well as with global industry feedback. The objective is to prepare the youth worldwide for frontline job roles in the hospitality industry at global standards. Students of the program in India are at a significant advantage with future employers, in global mobility and in their career progression. They will acquire the relevant knowledge and competencies required by the industry on par with international programs. We are pleased to see the continued growth of the VET by EHL network pan India in partnership with CII. The program that has been running at the AISSMS in Pune is a testament to the collective commitment of CII, IHCL Hotels and EHL towards the skilling of the youth in India towards sustainable and gainful employment in the hospitality and allied service industries." The program is a unique training model in partnership with the industry, delivered partly at the AISSMS Institute and IHCL hotel premises and facilitated by industry experts, to prepare the youth for quality employment within the industry. With a successful completion of phase one of training and placing around 100 students in the industry, we are super excited to start the process of admission to the batch of 2024 at AISSMS Pune.

## Blue Dart Successfully Commences Drone Deliveries



Pune (Voice news service)- Blue Dart, South Asia's leading courier and integrated express package distribution company, has successfully launched drone deliveries in collaboration with Skye Air, a leader in drone technology. This move marks a significant advancement towards cleaner and more efficient delivery solutions. Building on their pioneering VLOS trials in Vikarabad, Hyderabad, in September 2021, and BVLOS trials under the Telangana Government's 'Medicine from the Sky' initiative, Blue Dart continues to lead in utilizing drone technology for logistics. Initially focusing on the growing e-commerce sector, this innovative approach is set to revolutionize last-mile delivery by offering same-day delivery for shipments, significantly reducing delivery time and environmental impact. This milestone achievement notably coincided with World Environment Day, emphasizing Blue Dart's commitment to sustainable logistics practices. On this initiative, Balfour Manuel, Managing Director, Blue Dart, says, "The logistics sector in India is experiencing an exhilarating phase.

The nation's robust economic growth, coupled with the aspirations of its consumers and growth in Tier 2 & Tier 3 cities, has significantly boosted purchasing power. This surge in demand emphasizes the need for innovative solutions that drive growth while ensuring efficiency and sustainability. As we witness the marvel of drone technology, we eagerly anticipate extending this service further, with plans to cover additional pin codes in subsequent stages with our partners." With a rich legacy spanning over four decades, Blue Dart has set the standard for reliability, resilience, and responsiveness in the express logistics industry. The successful initiation of drone delivery operations further solidifies Blue Dart's position as an industry leader, reaffirming its commitment to continuous innovation and top-notch service.



## Pune (Voice news service)- The Association of Physicians of India (API), along with global healthcare company Abbott, today initiated the first ever 'Angina Awareness Week' in India, from June 19th to June 25th.

Through this, they aim to highlight the importance of early angina diagnosis and its optimal management to reduce the risk of cardiac events and improve patient outcomes. To mark this week, they collectively unveiled an Action Plan drafted by Abbott, titled, 'Optimal Treatment of Angina (OPTA): The need of the hour,' highlighting best standards for timely detection and management. Dr. Ashwini Pawar, Medical Director, Abbott India said, "Angina remains an under-diagnosed condition in India, even today. As a result of this, many do not receive optimal treatment. It's important to address this challenge given the growing burden of cardiovascular dis-

## Angina Awareness Week in India

eases, as well as its associated cost to the country of roughly 2.17 trillion US dollars between 2012 and 2030. With the support from Association of Physicians of India, we're committed to driving awareness through the initiation of the 'Angina Awareness Week' in India to help in earlier diagnosis and optimal angina management." Angina, experienced as discomfort, pain, heaviness, or squeezing in the chest, is a common initial symptom of coronary artery disease. India ranks second worldwide when it comes to cardiovascular disease-related mortality, and CVDs account for 20.3% and 16.9% of annual mortality across men and women in the country respectively. This makes it especially vital to pay attention to warning signs like angina, which can also result in light-headedness, discomfort in one's arms, back, and

more. Obesity is also a strong angina risk factor, especially in women compared to men. People living with diabetes also tend to report more extensive coronary disease, if unaddressed. The comprehensive action plan uncovers insights on angina, from its disease burden to key challenges and recommendations for doctors to consider. Indians have a 20-50% higher CAD mortality rate than any other population. Also, CAD related mortality and disability rates have doubled over the last 30 years in India. Indians also frequently display atypical angina symptoms, which may lead to missed diagnoses. Such signs include shortness of breath, excessive sweating, heartburn, nausea or stable angina, a kind of chest pain that can be triggered by emotional or physical stress or exercise. Women are more

likely than men to display uncommon symptoms - like jaw or neck pain, exhaustion, and non-chest discomfort, which can pose a challenge in diagnosis. This may result in doctors offering symptomatic relief solutions without addressing underlying angina causes, which is further heightened when patients deny the existence of their symptoms. Identifying angina early is essential to start interventions and help delay disease progression, alleviate symptoms, and reduce the risk of more serious cardiac events while avoiding additional healthcare costs. Recognizing this, Abbott developed three unique tools, including the OPTA clinical checklist, OPTA questionnaire, and OPTA approach, to support angina's diagnosis, prognosis, and medical management respectively. With API's recommendation of the

OPTA tools in clinical practice, they will help healthcare professionals with timely diagnosis, which is the first step towards optimal management. Dr. Milind Y Nadkar, President, API, commented, "Indians experience cardiovascular diseases a decade earlier than those in western countries, which makes it vital to address the early age of onset and rapid disease progression in a timely manner. With the country also recording the highest rate of coronary artery disease worldwide, it is essential to bring more awareness to symptoms like angina, which commonly affect Indians, but are often neglected. By supporting the country's general practitioners and cardiologists through various measures and tools, we aim to strengthen effective diagnosis and disease management." Others experts including Dr.

V.T Shah, Senior Interventional Cardiologist, Mumbai and Dr. Agam Vora, General Secretary, API also highlighted key information on angina and coronary artery diseases. The recommended action plan also highlights the need for healthcare practitioners adopting tools to support faster risk detection and follow a holistic management plan. In addition, minimally invasive procedures, and innovative technologies, such as devices for connected care and diagnostics that use artificial intelligence (AI), will play an important role in early detection, monitoring, and personalized treatment options. These therapies will help reduce recovery time, minimize complications, and improve patient outcomes. Overall, the future of cardiac care in India appears promising because of advances in medical technology, increasing awareness about heart health, and India's evolving healthcare infrastructure.1

## The Lexicon Schools launch "I Believe - And This Is My Story"

Pune (Voice news service)- The Lexicon Schools launched their first-of-its-kind book titled, "I Believe - And This Is My Story", on 19th June 2024, at the hands of Mr. S.D. Sharma, Founder Chairman, The Lexicon Group and Mr. Pankaj Sharma, President of The Lexicon Group of Institutes and Chairman & MD, Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror & Multifit. Also present on stage were Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO of The Lexicon Group of Institutes, EduCrack, and EasyRecruit+, Mrs. Anju Luthra, Deputy Director, The Lexicon Schools and Mr. Hemant Kumar, Founding Editor of Quill Club Writers. Authored and illustrated by the students of The Lexicon Schools, this book is a collection of illustrated stories that delve into the thoughts, imagination and perspectives of the school-going generation. It beautifully showcases the experiences, dreams, beliefs of young Lexiconites and is a great display of their great creativity and insight. The students received guidance from Mr. Hemant Kumar and a dedicated team of teachers and facilitators from The Lexicon Schools. I Believe is the first such book released by a school in Pune. When asked about it, Mr. Pankaj Sharma, President of The Lexicon Group of Institutes and Chairman MD of Pune Times Mirror, Civic Mirror, and Multifit, said, "We have great confidence in what our students are capable of doing. It was our endeavour to offer them an opportunity to



showcase their talent, which is an integral part of the Lexicon Experience." He thanked Mr. Hemant Kumar, Founding Editor - Quill Club Writers and the teachers involved in guiding the students for their immense contribution in making it a success. Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Group CEO of The Lexicon Group of Institutes, EduCrack, and EasyRecruit+ added, "When we came up with this unique idea, it was amazing to see how the students embraced the opportunity. We are the first school in Pune to come up with such a book and we are sure this book is going to inspire many young aspiring storytellers - both of the written world and the illustrative art kind." The event included two panel discussions. The first discussion, "Voice of the Future - Unveiling Our Story", was by the students of The Lexicon Schools. Student illustrators Sreyanshu Dey, Chaitrasi Koli, Yashica Jain and student authors Trisha Prajapati, Aneet Deepak and Dhaanya Naithani, shared their journey

of creating this volume and the thought process behind it. The discussion was moderated by Abha Chaloo, an avid reader and orator. The second panel discussion on "The Power of Storytelling: Inspiring Creativity and Collaboration Among Young Authors and Illustrators" was by a set of expert panelists, which included Mr Hemant Kumar - Founding Editor - Quill Club Writers, Ms Swati Rajee - Author Founder President - Bhaashaa Foundation, Mr Ajay Vaishampayan - Head Customer Acquisition Engagement, Creativity, Ms Garima Gupta - Psychologist, Author Happiness Coach, Mr Arvind Mittal - Author Script Writer and Ms Varsha Seshan - Author of children's books. Mr Raoul D'Cunha, a well-known Soft Skills Trainer, MUNner and Athlete was the moderator of this enlightening panel discussion that enriched the audience. "I Believe" will be on the stands soon. Its success will pave the path towards more and more creativity among school students.

## Celebrate this International Yoga Day with the Goodness of Almonds

Pune (Voice news service)- International Yoga Day, celebrated annually on June 21st, emphasizes yoga's holistic approach to health and well-being. This day aims to raise awareness about the benefits of incorporating yoga into daily life for improved physical, mental, and spiritual health. To maximize the benefits of yoga, it is essential to maintain a balanced, clean, and healthy diet. Such a diet includes seasonal fruits and vegetables, leafy greens, whole grains, pulses and nuts like almonds, all of which play a vital role in maintaining overall health and well-being. Almonds, in particular, contain 15 essential nutrients, including protein, zinc, magnesium, phosphorus, calcium and vitamin E. Incorporating a handful of almonds into your daily diet offers numerous health advantages. Almonds help keep the heart healthy, help to manage weight and cholesterol levels, and support immunity, which is crucial for overall well-being. Almonds are also a great pre-workout snack, as they can help alleviate muscle soreness and improve post-exercise recovery, as revealed by the recently released Witard study funded by the Almond Board of California. So, be sure to add almonds as a pre-workout snack for optimal results. Talking about International Yoga Day, Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan said, "I have been practicing yoga for a long time and have experienced positive health benefits



such as improved gut health, stronger immunity, better skin, and more. Alongside regular yoga practice, I ensure to eat a clean and well-balanced diet that includes seasonal fruits and veggies, almonds, yogurt, and more. Almonds have been my go-to snack for years. I make it a point to include almonds in my daily diet, especially after yoga sessions, as these nuts contain protein and 14 other essential nutrients that contribute to overall well-being." Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare, New Delhi, said, "I always recommend my clients practice some form of exercise at least five days a week, with yoga being my top recommendation. In addition to physical activity, it's essential to maintain a clean and healthy diet to achieve fitness goals. Incorporating foods like almonds, leafy greens, fruits and other nutritious options is crucial for overall well-being. Almonds, in particular, should be a part of everyone's diet due to their excellent nutritional content and numerous health benefits, such as supporting weight, blood sugar, and cholesterol management."

Commenting on the celebration around International Yoga Day, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant Sheela Krishnaswamy said, "I firmly believe that yoga should be an integral part of everyone's life as it promotes a happy and healthy lifestyle. Engaging in yoga not only improves strength, balance, and flexibility but also offers numerous other health benefits. Combining any form of exercise with clean and healthy eating habits is important for optimal results. Foods like almonds are beneficial as they help to boost energy, reduce fatigue, and provide nutrients that are required for good health. Moreover, consuming a handful of almonds regularly can help to lower blood sugar levels and LDL cholesterol." Dr. Rohini Patil, MBBS and Nutritionist, also believes that yoga should be a part of one's routine to maintain a happy and healthy life. "I truly believe that the power of yoga is often underestimated. I always recommend my clients incorporate yoga into their daily routine along with consuming nutritious, home-cooked food. Yoga not only improves strength and flexibility but also promotes relaxation and better sleep. Moreover, it benefits the heart and helps manage stress and blood sugar levels. Alongside yoga, it's important to include nutritious foods like almonds in one's diet for additional health benefits. Almonds, rich in protein and fiber, help to lower blood sugar levels and aid in weight management." The collab-

## Bank of Baroda onboards Rising Indian Tennis Sensation Sumit Nagal as its Brand Endorser

Pune (Voice news service)- Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, today announced that the Bank has signed rising Indian tennis player Mr. Sumit Nagal as its brand endorser. The move is in alignment with the Bank's long-standing philosophy to support emerging talented and ambitious Indian sportspersons as they endeavour to compete with the best on the world stage. Aged 26 years, Sumit Nagal will be strategically positioned by the Bank to target a younger demographic and a new generation of customers with a range of products specifically designed for this segment. The highest-ranked Indian singles tennis player currently, Sumit has jumped to a career-high singles ranking of World No. 71 on 17th June 2024, while securing a place in the Indian contingent for the Paris Olympics in the process. In January 2024, Sumit became the first Indian player in 35 years to defeat a seeded player in a Grand Slam men's singles match at the Australian Open 2024. Sumit joins a stellar line-up of Bank of Baroda endorsers that includes badminton star PV Sindhu and cricketing youth icon Shafali Verma. Commenting on the association, Shri Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda said, "Bank of Baroda has a rich legacy of partnering with and extending its support to some of India's most promising sporting talent early on in their careers. We are delighted to welcome Sumit Nagal to the Bank of Baroda family. Tennis is a global, highly competitive and demanding sport and this makes Sumit's journey and what he's aspiring to achieve all the more inspiring and extraordinary. The collab-



oration between Bank of Baroda and Sumit will also go a long way in promoting the sport in India and helping the Bank reach out to a younger audience." "Sumit's commitment, perseverance, passion and authenticity are just some of the attributes that define him; values that Bank of Baroda holds dear as well. 2024 is already proving to be a breakthrough year for Sumit and over 80,000 Barodians are cheering for him as he strives to achieve his dreams and make the country proud," added Shri Chand. Sumit Nagal said, "I am honoured and privileged to be associated with Bank of Baroda and would like to thank them for putting their confidence in me. Bank of Baroda is a leading, trusted Indian financial services institution that empowers the dreams and ambitions of millions and I eagerly look forward to this association." Born on 16th August 1997, Sumit started playing tennis at the age of 8. He won the 2015 Wimbledon boys doubles title. Sumit is the first Indian to reach a Grand Slam singles main draw in 3 years at the Australian Open 2024 and the first Indian ever to win 2 ATP Challenger singles titles in Europe. Recently, in April 2024, Sumit became the first Indian player in 49 years to qualify for the main draw of the Monte Carlo Masters tournament and the first Indian men's player ever to win a Masters 1000 match on clay, defeating Matteo Arnaldi in the round of 64.



**Geetai Productions Unveils Poster for Debut Hindi Film 'The Rabbit House' at Grand Event in Pune**



**Pune (Voice news service):-** In a spectacular event held in Pune, Krishna Pandhare and Sunita Pandhare announced the launch of their production house, 'Geetai Productions', and unveiled the poster for their debut Hindi film 'The Rabbit House'. The event was graced by the presence of Producers Krishna Pandhare and Sunita Pandhare, Writer and Director Vaibhav Kulkarni, Actors Amit Riyan, Karishma, Padmanabh, Gagan Pradeep, Suresh Kumbhar, Purva, Yogesh Kulkarni. The technical team included DOP Pratik Pathak, Make-up Artist Suresh Kumbhar, Costume Designer Pranoti Pathak, Asst. DOP Abhi Hajare,

Publicity Designer Suarabh Janwade, Sound Designer Sanket Dhotkar, and Chirag Gujrathi from Dawn Studio and guests. Producer Krishna Pandhare shared his journey, stating, "I had an attraction towards the film industry as I like movies a lot. But due to my busy business schedule, I never thought seriously about films. During a business meeting with writer Vaibhav Kulkarni, I heard the captivating story of the film which I liked a lot and at that moment I decided to step into film production and established Geetai Productions. My mother's name is Geetai and I wanted to start a new business with her name, so I decided to name the pro-



duction house as Geetai Productions. My wife Sunita took the responsibility of the production house and produced the Hindi film "The Rabbit House". Director Vaibhav Kulkarni expressed his gratitude, saying "Mr. and Mrs. Pandhare provided immense support throughout the shoot. They emphasized that the artistic quality should be paramount, regardless of the budget, which gave us the confidence to work freely and for which I am very thankful to them." Journalist Vinod Ghatge conducted interviews with the artists and technicians, while Amruta Suresh anchored the event. The story, screenplay, dialogues, direction and ed-

iting of the film 'The Rabbit House' was done by Vaibhav Kulkarni. The film was shot entirely in Himachal Pradesh, featuring a 120-year-old house known as 'The Rabbit House' which has the characteristic features which are used in the story of this film. This house is famous for its home-stay experience. The movie stars Padmanabh, Amit Riyan and Karishma in lead roles with Padmanabh also contributing as a singer and composer. The audience can expect a unique and refreshing experience in the poster of 'The Rabbit House' promises an exciting new addition to Hindi cinema from Geetai Productions.

**FIDE and Team IndianOil meets Chess gold winning team of Yerwada Central Prison ahead of 2nd Chess for Freedom Conference**



**Pune (Voice news service):-** At the outset of the 2nd Chess for Freedom Conference in Pune, organized by FIDE in partnership with IndianOil, officials from both organizations visited Yerwada Central Prison. There, they interacted with the prison's Chess team, which had won the gold medal for India in the third 'Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners' organized by FIDE. The team trains under IndianOil's 'Parivartan- Prison to Pride' initiative. Ms. Rashmi Govil, Director

(HR), IndianOil, Mr. Mikhail Korenman, Social Commission Councillor, FIDE, Mr. Andre Voegtlin, Social Commissioner Chair, FIDE, Mr. Amitabh Gupta, (IPS), Additional Director General of Police of Prison and Correctional Services, senior officials from Prison department and IndianOil were present on the occasion. Representatives from the jail authorities of other countries also joined the dignitaries. Welcoming the FIDE delegates and IndianOil officials, Amitabh Gupta, said, "We



have started introducing various activities in prison to foster prisoner reform, and our team winning gold after chess training has been instrumental in facilitating these reforms." Mr. Mikhail Korenman, Social Commission Councillor, FIDE, appreciated the jail authorities and IndianOil for their support of the Chess for Freedom initiative. "We are privileged to start our conference by meeting the winning team. Indian Oil has been a great partner in bringing about social change in society," he added in his address. Sharing her thoughts, Ms Rashmi Govil, Director (HR), IndianOil, said, "We launched 'Parivartan- Prison to Pride'

and 'Nayi Disha' because we believe in giving second chances and using sports as a tool for reformation. The gold medals won by the Yerwada Central Jail team and the Bhopal Juvenile Team in the early years of these initiatives provide immense impetus to the program." She further shared about IndianOil's initiative of Umeed- A Hope, prison retail outlets, operated by some of the current and former inmates. On the occasion, a special friendly chess game was played by foreign delegates and IndianOil officials with male and female inmates of Yerwada Central Jail who are being trained by IndianOil's Parivartan programme.

**Empowering Indian Women: Geet Mala Jalota Launches 'The Shattered Ceiling'**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** The Press Club of Mumbai witnessed an inspiring event as Geet Mala Jalota unveiled her second book, 'The Shattered Ceiling: Narratives of pioneering women'. This compelling collection of interviews features ten eminent women who are pioneers in the Indian industry. For the very first time these women have shared their take on breaking glass ceilings and what women have to be mindful of at their workplace. 'The Shattered Ceiling' offers readers an in-depth look at the personal and professional lives of these trailblazing women. Each interview is accompanied by a resume and a synopsis of key takeaways titled "My Take." Jalota expressed her gratitude to these influential women for their candid and unreserved responses, which she believes are full of valuable lessons for women navigating careers. Importance of financial independence for women, how networking helps, why women are better at some careers more than others and how to ensure an inclusive culture in organizations. The book features interviews with: 1. Deena Mehta - The first lady trader and former President of the



BSE Exchange. 2. Sucheta Shah - Executive Director - Atlas Integrated Finance. 3. Vijayalakshmi Chhabra - The first lady Director General of Doordarshan. 4. Anita Khurana - The first lady appointed as Commercial Director in Indian Airlines/Air India post-merger. 5. Panchali Mukhopadhyay - VP, Sales & Marketing at Herbalife. 6. Kresha Bajaj - Founder of the label Krésha Bajaj. 7. Sanju Yadav - Pharma Business Head known for her innovative ideas on preventive health and wellbeing. 8. Susmitha Chakraborty -

One of the first women to reach Associate Director-level position in the IT industry at CSC India. 9. Kanika Mohan Saxena - The second lady Master Scuba Diving Trainer and VP of Digital Content Services at Vodafone Idea Limited (VI). 10. Anuradha Deb - Founder of the Process Work Institute of India and Dream Clinic. Geet Mala Jalota's objective in writing 'The Shattered Ceiling' is to showcase these role models and provide the next generation of working women with the knowledge and support needed to navigate their careers confidently. Indian Corporate sector needs

to acknowledge the contribution these women have made, opening up different sectors of industry for women's entry and setting a trend for aiming high. During the event, Jalota shared, "I am deeply grateful to all the established women who participated in this book. Their willingness to share their journeys and insights has made 'The Shattered Ceiling' a powerful resource for women everywhere. I hope this book serves as a reminder to women of their financial self-worth and encourages them to pursue their professional aspirations with confidence." 'The Shattered Ceiling' is set to become a significant contribution to the discourse on gender diversity and women's empowerment in India, providing valuable insights and inspiration to women to break through their own ceilings. A framework for taking the leap has been very well explained in Geet's first book, "Have the women left Venus? Decoding gender at the workplace." The Shattered Ceiling, 207-page book, priced at Rs. 350 and published by Anecdote Publishing House, is currently available on Amazon as well as in bookstores.

**Tasva, by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail and Designer Tarun Tahliani**

**Announce Partnership as the 'Official Ceremonial Dress Partner' for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Tasva, the Indian menswear brand by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. and celebrated designer Tarun Tahliani, proudly announces its partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the 'Official Ceremonial Dress Partner' for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024. This prestigious collaboration marks a significant milestone in the fashion and sports industries, bringing together the elegance and heritage of Indian fashion with the spirit of global athleticism. As the 'Official Ceremonial Dress Partner', Tasva will design and provide exclusive ceremonial attire for the Indian contingent, blending traditional aesthetics with contemporary flair to showcase India's rich cultural heritage on the world stage.

Commenting on the partnership, Tarun Tahliani, Chief Design Officer, Tasva, said, "The aim was to create a look that represents our cultural heritage, incorporates the colours of the Indian flag, and, most importantly, embodies a new, dynamic, agile, and youthful India. We wanted the athletes to feel comfortable yet look formal, with tailored shapes that make them confident as they set out to represent our vibrant country. Tradition is honoured while standing on a global sporting arena." Mr. Ashish Mukul, Brand Head, Tasva, expressed his excitement about the partnership by stating, "We are honoured to be the 'Official Ceremonial Dress Partner' for the Indian team at the Paris Olympics 2024.

At Tasva, we believe in celebrating the spirit of India, and this partnership allows us to showcase our rich heritage and contemporary style. We look forward to contributing to the memorable journey of our athletes and feel privileged to support them as they strive for excellence on the world stage." P. T. Usha, President, Indian Olympic Association, commented on the new partnership: "We are delighted to welcome Tasva as our 'Official Ceremonial Dress Partner' for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024. The elegant designs and commitment to excellence that Tasva embodies will ensure that our athletes not only perform at their best but also represent India with pride and style. We are confident that this collaboration will add a



new dimension to the Olympic experience for our team." This collaboration is set to elevate the presence of Indian fashion on a global platform, celebrating the intersection of style, tradition, and sportsmanship. The Indian contingent's ceremonial attire for the Paris Olympics 2024 promises to be a blend of sophistication, cultural pride, and contemporary design, making a powerful statement on the world stage.

**On this International Music Day, know why Madhya Pradesh and Music are inseparable!**



**Pune:** As the world celebrates International Music Day, Madhya Pradesh Tourism is proud to showcase the state's vibrant musical tapestry. Gwalior, a city with a long history of artistic patronage, has been designated as a Creative City of Music by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). This prestigious recognition underscores Gwalior's immense contribution to the development of Hindustani classical music. The Moti Mahal or Moti Palace of Gwalior built in 1825 by the Scindia ruler Maharaja Shrimant Daulat Rao Scindia of Gwalior in a Hindu architectural style is one of the main buildings of Gwalior's history. Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board is putting efforts to transform this heritage site into a Museum of Music where the rich culture of Gwalior can be revisited. The project is setting its sights on transforming the museum

into the most visited public space in Gwalior. The Ministry of Culture (MoC) has approved the grant for the Museum of Music. The proposals sent by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board for the Museum of Music are approved for financial assistance recommended by the Expert Committee under the Museum Grant Scheme. The Museum will showcase antique musical instruments for music and art lovers. Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture and Managing Director of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla said Gwalior's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Music is a testament to Madhya Pradesh's rich musical heritage. Madhya Pradesh offers a unique travel experience for music lovers. Gwalior celebrates its musical heritage through Tansen Samaroh, a festival dedicated to Tansen's legacy. Bhopal, the capital city, hosts



events like the Lokrang Festival, showcasing the state's diverse folk and tribal music. Music Gharana from Madhya Pradesh: The Melodic Heart of India Madhya Pradesh's musical legacy boasts legendary figures as it is home to the four largest gharana of Indian classical music - Maihar gharana, Gwalior Gharana, Senia gharana and Indore Gharana. The most famous among these are the Maihar and Gwalior gharana. The Maihar gharana has given the world stalwarts like sitar maestro Ravi Shankar, flute maestro Hariprasad Chaurasia and sarod maestro Alauddin Khan. Gwalior gharana has produced great artists like Veena Sahasrabudhe, Malini Rajurkar, DV Paluskar, Kumar Gandharva and Mukul Shivputra. Shri Shukla added Madhya Pradesh is an Offbeat Multi-specialty Destination of First

Choice and every city in the state boasts a unique musical identity, and four largest music gharana enriching the state's diverse soundscape. Experience the Music of Madhya Pradesh! A Tapestry of Sounds The state is that there are many music festivals held here that still honour composers and celebrate music. Some of the famous festivals include the Allauddin Khan Sangeet Samaroh, a three-day music festival held in the city of Maihar, dedicated to Ustad Allauddin Khan, the head of the Maihar Gharana, and the Amir Khan Mahotsav, held in Indore which is dedicated to the founder of Indore gharana Ustad Amir Khan. Sangeet Prasang, Vishva Yog Evam Sangeet Diwas, Ye Shaam Mastani, Hriday Drishyam, The Great Indian Film and Literature Festival (GIFLIF) in Bhopal. Tansen Music Festival is organized near Tansen and Samadhi in Gwalior in December.

**Ratnagiri Jets thump Nashik to defend MPL crown in style**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Ratnagiri Jets made a below-par score of 160 for 8 look like Mt Everest with a clinical bowling performance and thumped Eagle Nashik Titans by 24 runs to defend their Maharashtra Premier League (MPL) title at the MCA International Stadium here Saturday.



In 2023, Ratnagiri Jets were declared winners after their final against PBG Kolhapur Tuskers was abandoned due to inclement weather. The telling statistic of Nashik's innings was Mukesh Chaudhary (50, 35b, 2x4s, 4x6s), the team's icon player and the premier pacer was the only player to score more than 20 runs. Atharva Kale (15, 18b, 1x6) was the next-best batter for Nashik. Nashik could only put up 136 for 9. Left-arm spinners choke Nashik Satyajet Bachhav (4-1-31-4), who won the purple cap (11 Innings, 26 wickets) found a formidable

bowling partner in fellow left-arm spinner Kunal Thorat (4-0-19-2) as Ratnagiri choked Nashik. Three of Bachhav's four scalps - Kaushal Tambe, Atharva Kale, and Mukesh Chaudhary - were bowled while Ranjit Nikam (3, 6b) holed out to Divyang Hinganekar. From the other end, Thorat dismissed Arshin Kulkarni and dangerous Dhanraj Shinde (3, 6b) to leave Nashik tottering 79 for 7. It was only Mukesh Chaudhary's late hitting that spared Nashik from a humiliating defeat. Chasing 161, all Eagle Nashik Titans needed was a good power play, but they lost the plot in the first

ship for the fifth wicket between two youngsters - Kiran Chormale (35, 23b, 3x4s, 2x6) and Abhishek Pawar (28, 22b, 3x6s) helped Ratnagiri recover from 56 for 4. Former KKR player Nikhil Naik (36, 25b, 3x4s, 1x6) once again played a cameo he often plays, to guide Ratnagiri to 160 for 8, a score which in turn proved more than enough. 30,000+ crowd enjoy the final A crowd of over 30,000 packed the stands for the final of the MPL at the MCA International Stadium despite India playing against Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup. The vocal crowd chanted for their favourite team throughout, and Ratnagiri Jets were a clear fan favourite. As the defending champions cruised towards the title, the decider levels only grew louder. The famous singer Abhijeet Sawant enthralled the crowd with a performance before the match and during the innings break.

**Chennaiyin FC extend contract of forward Connor Shields**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Chennaiyin FC are delighted to announce that Connor Shields has signed a contract extension that will keep the skilled forward at the club till 2025. Shields joined the Marina Machans from Motherwell FC in 2023. Since then he has played a total of 27 matches for the team in all competitions, scoring five goals and registering four assists. The 26-year-old forward from Scotland has become an integral part of the team's

front line and has played a crucial role in its success on many occasions. Head coach Owen Coyle expresses confidence in Shields' abilities to continue playing for the team in the upcoming season. "Absolutely delighted to have Connor Shields back. After how well Connor did last year within the club and has played a year. Pace, power, adaptable, plays a number of positions and an outstanding lad as well. Very highly regarded by his

teammates and his qualities really shone through for us. So, it's great news for the club to have Connor back and an Outstanding ability, a fantastic crosser of the ball. Can score a goal, create a goal and we're delighted to have him back," Coyle commented on the extension. Shields made 21 appearances for the club in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 season and looks to deliver quality performances for the team in the upcoming season as well. "I am thrilled to extend my

stay at Chennaiyin FC. The support from the fans, working with the gaff and everything that is being done for the upcoming season makes it even more exciting. I look forward to contributing all I have," commented Shields after committing to the club for another year. The forward's presence in Chennaiyin FC will continue to boost the team's offensive prowess, with his anticipated pivotal role likely to bring significant quality and energy to their performance on the field.



**Meta hosts 'Digital Suraksha for Teens' roundtable in Pune with parents, educators to discuss digital safety initiatives**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Reiterating its commitment to the wellbeing of youth, Meta today organized the "Talking Digital Suraksha for Teens" roundtable in Pune, in partnership with 1M1B. The parent-educator forum was held to build parental awareness on Meta's approach to online safety and share best practices to safeguard the wellbeing of teens engaged in the online world.



The session discussed ways of empowering parents to confidently manage their teens' usage of smartphones and devices - including on Meta's platforms, while also gathering insights from parents and educators on their feedback around teen usage of social media and other online trends. The roundtable was attended by a select group of educators and parents from 10-15 selected schools in the city to learn more about digital safety initiatives and discuss experiences of their teen's social media journey. Meta also sensitized the attending parents and educators about the tools and features by Meta that can aid a safe social media experience.

Speaking on the occasion, Natasha Jog, Director, Public Policy in India, Instagram, said, "We believe parents and educators can play an integral part in a teen's social media journey. Through a series of high impact conversations across India, we are sensitizing them around how their teens can meaningfully spend time online while staying safe."

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the user safety ecosystem, Meta held the 'Digital Suraksha Summit'

last year, which was built on a continuous endeavor to provide for a safe and balanced online experience for youth and women. Meta has also announced a two-year partnership with the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology (ITBT), Government of Karnataka to empower students across schools and colleges, and educators on information, awareness and education on online safety and digital citizenship.

Over the past three years, Meta has launched 50+ safety tools and features to promote online safety. Recently rolled out features around teen safety include, 'Night Nudges', which encourages users to shut down the Instagram app when being used late at night, as well as 'Quiet Mode', which help give teen users more control over the time spent on Instagram and what they see. Further, with Instagram's Parental Supervision feature, parents can view the accounts their child follows, the accounts that follow their children and be more involved in their online experiences. Meta's 'Family Center' also provides parents and teens to find information on how to safely navigate the platforms.

**More than 1.35 Yoga Trainers trained under Skill India Mission**



**Pune (Voice news service):-** In line with the 10th International Yoga Day celebrations, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and its partner organisations along with department officials, inspired the public to embrace yoga by leading a vibrant yoga camp at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi, starting at 6:00 AM. This event, centered around the theme "Yoga for Self and Society," underscored yoga's transformative power in enhancing individual health and fostering societal well-being.

Marking the occasion Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge)—Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in his official tweet shared the achievement of MSDE where he mentioned that Skill India had successfully trained and certified more than 1.35 lakh yoga trainers to date under the mission, empowering individuals with valuable skills and promoting wellness across the nation. He added that this initiative highlights our commitment to enhancing health and fitness through professional yoga training. (<https://r.b.gy/s08qoa>)

Among the top states in training yoga trainers, Uttar Pradesh leads with 31,018 certified candidates. Close behind is Tamil Nadu with 30,952 certified trainers. Maharashtra also ranks high with 26,743 candidates. Other notable states include Punjab with 11,381 certified

trainers, Haryana with 7,000, and Bihar with 3,701 certified candidates. These states have made significant contributions to the growth and dissemination of yoga training across the country.

Shri. Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, "On the 10th International Yoga Day, we celebrate an ancient practice that aligns perfectly with our Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a harmonious and healthy nation. Health and wellness is a focus for our ministry, reflecting the growing importance of these areas in modern society. MSDE has recognized the rising demand for professionals trained in health and wellness, and in response, has developed a range of courses that are increasingly popular among learners.

These courses cover various aspects of health and wellness, including yoga and fitness training. Yoga is not just a form of exercise but a profound journey towards discovering inner peace and achieving holistic growth." The International Yoga Day is celebrated annually on June 21st. It was established by the United Nations in 2014, following a proposal by Indian Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi. The day has since become a global phenomenon, promoting the ancient practice of yoga to achieve a healthier and more harmonious world.

**On International Yoga Day, the Suryadatta Group of Institutes organized 'Suryadatta Yogawari Yatra Arogyathon 2024'**



**Pune:** The Suryadatta Group of Institutes Pune has organized the 'Suryadatta Yogawari Yatra Arogyathon-2024' on the occasion of the tenth International Yoga Day. A large number of students and teachers participated for two consecutive hours from 10 am to 12 am and danced on various types of yoga and religious songs. This unique initiative, which raises awareness about the Pandharpur pilgrimage, various religious journeys, and physical and mental health, has been recorded in the India Star World Records.

The initiative was organized under the guidance of the founder president of Suryadatta Education Foundation, Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordiya, and Vice President Sushma Chordiya. Yoga instructors Sonali Sasane and Savita Gandhi conducted yoga demonstrations. Associate Vice President Snehal Navalkha, Dean Dr. Pratiksha

Wable, Director Prashant Pitaiya, Principal Dr. Simi Retharekar, Vandana Pandey, Hemant Jain, along with all principals, HoDs, teachers, non-teaching staff, and students were present in large numbers. Prof. Dr. Sunil Dhangar coordinated the program. The students of Hotel Management arranged nutritious snacks for everyone. Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordiya said, "On the occasion of Yoga Day, unique and different programs are organized every year at Suryadatta. Previously, record-breaking initiatives such as 'Kala Arogyam Yoghath' and 'Taal Arogyam Yoghath' have been organized, and they have been recognized by various international institutions. This year, the initiative 'Suryadatta Yogawari Yatra Arogyathon' was undertaken. Maharashtra is the land of saints. In this sacred land, there is a great heritage of the devotion to Vitthal by Sant Tukaram Ma-



haraj and Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj. Millions of people undertake the pilgrimage from Dehu-Alandi to Pandharpur. Thousands of people participate in the pilgrimage. During the monsoon, it is essential to take care of one's health and have a good diet. Keeping all these things in mind, a new concept called 'Aachar, Vichar, and Aahar' (Conduct, Thought, and Diet) was implemented.

"Just as the Warkaris undertake their pilgrimage on foot, keeping rhythm and beat, similarly, the students performed yoga and dance to the tunes of pilgrimage and devotional songs. Various types of asanas were recorded for a continuous 120 minutes. A global prayer was made through yoga in a devotional manner, wishing for world peace to prevail and for the upcoming pilgrimage and all other journeys to be pleasant. During the event, doctors and volunteer supervisors moni-

tored the participants. If anyone faced any issues, they were immediately checked and provided with appropriate medical services.

We believe that such a record has been set for the first time not only in India but also in the world. Such initiatives are important for fostering physical and mental health, ultimately contributing to the development of a bright generation," noted Prof. Dr. Sanjay B. Chordiya.

After two continuous hours of yoga demonstrations, a Surya Namaskar competition was held. Twenty children participated in this. Among them, two children performed 125 Surya Namaskars, while some children did more than 70 Surya Namaskars. In this competition, Neeraj Bub (first), Komal Shreshthreemal (second), Sanika Bhatkar (third), Omkar Raut, and Purnima Shiralkar (encouragement) won cash prizes & certificates.

**A total of 878 students of KJ Educational Institutes got placements in national & international companies**

**Pune:** A total of 878 students of KJ Educational Institutes (KJEI) in Yewlewadi have got placements in national, international, and multinational companies.

Two students have got an annual package of 36 lakhs and ten students have got a package of 16 lakhs. More than 470 students received an annual package of more than 4 to 7 lakhs. Keeping the tradition of 100 percent placement in technical, civil, and electrical engineering this year too, the students of 'KJ' performed remarkably.

Students from Trinity Academy of Engineering, Trinity College of Engineering and KJ College of Engineering & Research, run by KJ Educational Institute have been

placed in various companies like Stale Protocol, Virtu Infra, IBM, Atos, Persistent, Zoriet, Betsol, Ecotech Systems, JBM, SIL, Maker Strive, JCB, Futuring Design, Eagle Bergman, Magna Automotive, General Management Systems, Spicer Dana, Sandvik India, Ultra Engineering, Boss Chassis Limited, Plastic Omnium, Rohan Construction, Viconstruct, T&T Infra, GSource, TCS, AP Associate & Inc. Hexaware, UST Blueprint, Parker Digital, Quality Kiosk, Entangle Lab, KGK Infotech, Rockwell Automation etc.

Founder President of KJEI, Kalyan Jadhav, Campus Director Maj. Gen. (Retd) Sameer Kalla, Technical Director Dr. A. M. Phulambarkar, Principal Dr. Nilesh Uke, Dr.

Suhas Khot, Dr. Abhijit Auti, Placement Officer Prof. Kiran Pawar, Prof. Rajusingh Rathod, Prof. Monika Samrutwar congratulated the successful students.

Sameer Kalla mentioned that the educational institution benefited by encouraging promising students from rural areas and giving them free training in special communication skills and intelligence development in their final year. The placement team has tied up with various multinational companies in the past three years to provide skill development courses to the children through the Center of Excellence. It helped a lot by doing various certification courses from SAP, Edunet, NetScout, CI-DAC, Zensar, Svir, Centum,



Rubicon, and STQS. Kalyan Jadhav said, "Technical, Civil, and Electrical Engineering currently has many opportunities. Students benefit from combining software and core knowledge with AI, Machine Learning, Robotics, Automation, the Internet of Things, design, Networking, Cloud, and Digital Twin. Considering the excellent academic activities and quality enhancement in the institute, 'A Plus' category of NAAC, many reputed companies select the final year students of the institute through examinations and interviews."

**Christ University, Lavasa organises 9th Annual Graduation Convocation Ceremony**



**Pune (Voice news service):-** The 9th convocation ceremony of Christ University, Lavasa was organised on 15th July, Saturday, at its serene Lavasa residential campus. The ceremony was held in the august presence of the Chief Guest, Dr Dnyaneshwar Mulay - Member NHRM and Former Diplomat and High Commissioner of India to Maldives, Fr (Dr) Joseph CC - Vice Chancellor Christ University, Fr (Dr) Lijo Thomas Director & Dean - Christ University Lavasa, Dr Anil Pinto - Registrar, Dr Johnny Joseph - Registrar, Academics faculty, staff and proud parents along with their convocating wards.

The grand ceremony felicitated all students on a significant milestone in their lives. Rank holders and best outgoing students held pride of place

amongst their peers who joyfully applauded each other's achievements. 605 students across various programs offered at the University, including MBA, BSc & MSc (Economics & Analytics), BSc & MSc (Data Science), Law, and Commerce were awarded their degrees. The convocation saw 407 students from the undergraduate programs, 195 from the postgraduate programs and 3 PhD students receiving their degrees.

Dr Mulay congratulated Christ University for completing 10 years in Lavasa and contributing to the educational development of the region. Dr Mulay advised students on the continuing responsibility each of them held as torchbearers for creating not just economic value but also participating in progressing human dignity and respect for all humanity as a primary occupational value. These inspiring ideals also resonate in the core values of 'Excellence and Service' of Christ Uni-

versity, which are instilled in each student as part of their holistic learning. Dr Mulay urged students to develop a scientific temper and maintain a spirit of curiosity and inquiry. Dr Mulay further asserted that through our diverse culture, rich traditions and history of knowledge since ancient times, India has the potential to become the Educational Hub of the world and reverse the education migration to other developed countries.

Fr (Dr) Joseph CC, Vice Chancellor, reflected on how Christ University began its journey in 1969 as a single college. It has now grown to one of the leading Universities in India, with six campuses in 3 cities. He added that the Convocation is a significant milestone in a student's journey, not merely in acquiring a degree but also in knowledge gained, friendships forged and life experiences that help shape each student's character and temperament.



Fr (Dr) Lijo Thomas, Campus Director and Dean, concluded the inspiring messages emphasising the residential aspects of community life, which fosters self-reliance and continuous learning. He reflected on the humble beginnings of the Lavasa campus in 2014 with 12 students to the current 2010 students, with the first batch of Law students graduating on this day. The convocation ceremony celebrates the Lavasa residential campus of Christ University as it continues to grow through its student community, learned faculty, staff and the local community of residents.

**Muktangan English School & Jr. College Cadets**



**Shine in NCC Combined Annual Training Camp**

**Pune:** NCC Air Wing Cadets of PVG's Muktangan English School & Jr. College shine in a Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC-706). Recently, the camp was held at NCC Group Headquarters, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune. A total of 21 Cadets of Std. IX Participated in various competitions. The cadets have successfully won the following prizes and brought laurels to our school. In the Quiz Competition Cadets won the Winners Trophy, in the Drill & Cultural Competition cadets won the Runners Trophy. Cadets also won individual prizes for Best Cadet Category JD and JW. Cadet Rajveer Jadhavrao won the Best Cadet JD, while Cadet Vedantee Kadam won Best Cadet JW. NCC Air Wing Group Coimbatore conduct-

ed A ten-day All India NCC Girls trek expedition '2024 Tamilnadu trek' in the Nilgiris from 4th May to 15th May 2024. Cadet Ira Joshi, Cadet Arya Chormule, and Cadet Shrivari Jagtap these three girls attended the camp.

It was altogether a thrilling experience for the cadets. The entire Air Wing troop was trained and guided by Third Officer Shruti Kamble. All the NCC Air Wing Cadets and Third Officer Shruti Kamble were congratulated & felicitated by the Principal of the school Mrs. Meena Rane. Supervisors Mrs. Sayali Dhakras, Mrs. Supriya Deshkulkarni & Mrs. Jayati Narawane were also present. The school management and the Director of the school, Shri Anand Kulkarni congratulated the entire team.

**Medicover Hospital Bhosari Inaugurates State-of-the-Art Endoscopy Suite**



**Pune:** Medicover Hospital in Bhosari, Pune, celebrated the inauguration of its cutting-edge Endoscopy Suite. The event was honored by the presence of Mr. Bharat Shinde, Police Inspector of Bhosari Police Station, who officially inaugurated the facility.

Dr. Manoj Kolhe, a distinguished Consultant Gastroenterologist, Hepatologist, and Therapeutic Endoscopist, welcomed Mr. Shinde to the event. During the ceremony, Dr. Vyas Maurya, Center Head of Medicover Hospital, provided an in-depth explanation of the suite's advanced capabilities and features to the chief guest.

The Endoscopy Suite is equipped with the latest medical technology, including an Endo Ultrasound Machine, Endoscopic Retrograde

Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), and equipment for Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) and Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR). These tools will enable the hospital to provide comprehensive endoscopy services to its patients. Dr. Manoj Kolhe will lead the Endoscopy Suite, supported by a dedicated team of six skilled medical professionals. The new facility aims to enhance the hospital's 39+ diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities, offering patients access to top-tier gastrointestinal care.

Medicover Hospital's new Endoscopy Suite marks a significant advancement in the medical infrastructure of Bhosari, reflecting the hospital's commitment to providing high-quality healthcare services to the community.

**Amway India Observes International Yoga Day**

**Pune:** In its steadfast dedication to promoting healthier lives, Amway India, one of the leading companies supporting health and wellbeing needs, marked International Yoga Day by emphasizing the utmost importance of holistic health through the seamless integration of yoga and nutrition. The initiative aimed to incorporate yoga and mindful eating into the morning routine, helping to set a positive tone for the rest of the day and promoting both physical and mental wellness. As part of this initiative, Amway India organized a series of physical and virtual yoga sessions, along with expert speaker programs, reaching more than 4000 fitness enthusiasts across the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandra Chakraborty, Sr. Vice President, East & West, Amway India stated, "As an advocate for holistic health and wellbeing, we applaud the Government of India's efforts to promote yoga globally with an emphasis on overall wellbeing. The interconnectedness between yoga and diet, especially the first meal of the day, is evident from a study on yoga practitioners in India. The study found that 65% incorporated specific foods or beverages into their diet after starting yoga. Moreover, 72.4% mentioned that

yoga influenced the timing of their first meal, with 63% starting to eat earlier. Therefore, we believe that by aligning yoga practices and nutritional intake with our body's biological clock, we can optimize our health and vitality. At Amway, we champion this approach through our philosophy of Exercise, Positive Attitude, Rest, and Nutrition, advocating for a disciplined approach to the first meal and exercise such as yoga, complemented by need-based supplementation to address nutritional gaps in enhancing overall health and well-being. All of this aligns with our goal to transform lives by adopting healthy habits, helping to extend health span, and fostering a healthier tomorrow."

In the West region a series of vibrant physical and virtual events were orchestrated. These events featured invigorating yoga sessions and insightful programs aimed at fostering a deeper connection with the community. They also aimed to promote the benefits of yoga and highlight the importance of starting the day with a nutritious meal. Following each session, participants enjoyed a healthy shake or smoothie enriched with Nutrilite All Plant Protein and Nutrilite Fiber, kickstarting their day and complementing the benefits of yoga.

**"Housing.com Targets Aggressive Growth in Pune, India's Thriving Housing Hub"**

**Pune:** Housing.com, India's premier full-stack prop-tech platform, is set to deepen its footprint in Pune, one of the country's fastest-growing housing markets. According to Housing.com's IRIS Index, Pune is currently outpacing other major realty markets like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad in online property search volume, underscoring its increasing attractiveness to investors and homebuyers driven by robust economic growth, expanding infrastructure, and rich cultural heri-

itage. Housing.com Hosts Successful Networking Event 'Housing.com Partners' Meet' To drive this growth, Housing.com organized a highly successful networking event, the 'Housing.com Partners' Meet', for Pune's leading real estate developers. This event served as a dynamic platform for key stakeholders to share insights, fostering collaboration and innovation within the industry. Esteemed attendees included representatives from Kolte Patil, Kohinoor Group,

Nyati Group, and Venkatesh Group. Participants engaged in enriching discussions on the latest industry trends, cutting-edge technologies, and best practices. The event also provided a valuable opportunity for forging connections with potential partners, peers, and clients. Mr. Amit Masaldan, Chief Revenue Officer, Housing.com, said, "Pune's dynamic infrastructure evolution, rich cultural heritage, and rapid economic development cre-

ate a robust foundation for sustained growth in the real estate sector. Also, Mumbai and Pune continue to be the growth drivers for the realty sector and for us as a digital realty company, as a major chunk of our audience comes from these two prime tier-1 markets. This trend is likely to continue, as this vibrant market attracts significant economic activity and interest from both investors and homebuyers." Mr. Masaldan Further added, "The surge in demand for

online home searches in the Pune market has been remarkable. Major Investments and High Demand Drive Growth Sales data for January-March period of 2024 show buyers in Pune predominantly seek affordable-to-mid-range homes priced from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 75 lakh, with apartments being the most preferred housing option. In terms of configuration, 2BHK homes have the highest demand. An industrial hub with a flourishing commercial market,

Pune has also seen residential property values growing by an average 10% in the past year. The government's infrastructure push through operationalisation of new metro stretches (the Civil Court to Swargate underground stretch is expected to start from July), is likely to further boost value appreciation in specific pockets. Overall, Pune remains one of the most affordable mega cities in India, offering great quality of life and high growth potential.



## Human-Centric, Hybrid AI Opens up New Possibilities: Samsung's Won-Joon Choi

**Pune (Voice news service):-** The world is at the beginning of the most exciting and probably one of the most historic moments in technology. The era of mobile AI is here — which for Samsung opened up by the introduction of Galaxy AI features on the Galaxy S24 series, our first AI phone.

### Revolutionizing Mobile Experiences With a Hybrid AI Approach

To bring the real-life benefits of generative AI technology to the Galaxy S24 series, Samsung took a hybrid approach to our AI integration. AI offers so many possibilities, and Samsung believes mobile devices are the primary access point for unlocking its potential as users around the globe continue to rely on their phones for most of their day-to-day needs.

The essential role that mobile devices play in everyday life means they are very personal items that people use during many critical and memorable moments. Samsung understands these behaviors and believes smartphones should work harder so that users can truly make the most of important moments in a simpler, more intuitive and more epic way. Samsung also recognizes the importance of privacy which is why the brand gives users full control over what they share and what they keep private.

"We believe our hybrid approach is the most practical and reliable solution to meet

all these needs and puts Samsung ahead of the curve. We are providing users with a balance between the instant responsiveness and extra privacy assurance of on-device AI and the versatility of cloud-based AI through open collaborations with industry-leading partners in offering a variety of functions they need for daily life," said Won-Joon Choi, EVP & Head of Mobile R&D Office, Mobile eXperience Business at Samsung Electronics.

**Expanding Possibilities with On-Device AI** Samsung made the Live Translate feature on-device AI based because voice calls are the most basic feature of a smartphone, yet also an intimate and private means of communication. Samsung has committed to empowering users to communicate without language barriers, while at the same time ensuring every communication is safe and private.

"To make this feature a reality, our R&D team worked day and night as part of a collaborative process that truly brought out the best in our teams. From determining the right size of AI language models to training and testing in real-life scenarios, our R&D organizations within the MX business challenged themselves and pushed beyond the limits of what we thought was possible to get this feature running entirely on-device," Mr Choi said.

Samsung's global R&D networks around the world, which are in charge of growing the best talents and developing core technologies in each region, have also played a pivotal role. Samsung Research Centers around the globe, including Poland, China, India and Vietnam, have dedicated themselves to developing and expanding the languages supported by Galaxy AI. Languages are very cultural, contemporary and localized, so to help people break down language barriers and communicate more naturally, the role of our local R&D offices is even more crucial in opening up new possibilities for users in more regions than ever before.

All these efforts have enabled Samsung to offer something completely new which we are excited to share. Soon, Samsung is extending the power of Galaxy AI beyond Samsung's own native calling app by expanding Live Translate to other third-party message apps to support voice calls. So you can stay in contact with friends or colleagues, communicating on your favorite apps in multiple languages.

And since this feature has been integrated into our on-device AI language translation model, users will be able to experience barrier-free communication without worrying about privacy issues like personal data being shared outside their phone when us-

ing Live Translate.

Samsung expects that more and more mobile AI features will be incorporated inside mobile devices as the intelligent computing power of the latest chips — particularly NPUs — advances at a blazing fast speed, along with other technologies. This will enable more people to embrace AI and make every day more convenient while offering greater peace of mind.

### Growing Galaxy AI for Tomorrow's Needs, Today

"This exciting news is all part of the extension of our commitment to Galaxy AI and entering the next phase of the mobile AI era. The introduction of Galaxy AI on the Galaxy S24 series was only the start. To deliver a completely new and unique AI experience, we will further optimize the Galaxy AI experience for the upcoming foldable devices. Our foldables are the most versatile and flexible form factor in Samsung Galaxy and when combined with Galaxy AI, these two complementary technologies will together unlock all new possibilities," Mr. Choi said. Samsung is also committed to expanding Galaxy AI experiences across the broader Galaxy ecosystem in a way that only Samsung can. As the mobile AI era moves forward at a rapid pace, Samsung is accelerating mobile AI innovations to meet the needs of not only today, but tomorrow.

## Tata Motors Plants Over One Million Trees, Improves Green Cover of Maharashtra's Tribal Interiors

**Pune (Voice news service):-** In the heart of Maharashtra's tribal interiors, Tata Motors has embarked on a transformative mission — the One Million Plantation initiative. This ambitious project aims to sow saplings of hope for local communities in the Palghar district. To date 1.5 million fruit and forest saplings have taken root, covering 13,000 acres across eight blocks, breathing life into once-barren land.

As part of the Integrated Village Development Programme (IVDP), Tata Motors' initiative not only curbs distress migration but also generates income for local communities by providing sustainable income; leveraging MNREGS scheme for sapling aftercare, and later through the produce sales. So far, more than 1.5 Million Plantation has benefited 13,000 farmers in the region by transforming 13,000 acres of un-utilised farmland



into a productive Wadi. It has also provided them nutrition-rich fruits, thus improving health and nutrition levels of the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the region. In this collaborative model Tata Motors supports the sapling cost, technical support and trainings are provided by the BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development (BISLD) and a significant part of the project cost is funded by the government via the MNREGS as wage for aftercare of the saplings. The wages are directly transferred to the farmer's account, which

depends on the survival rate of the saplings. Vinod Kulkarni, CSR Head at Tata Motors, said, "The One Million Plantation initiative can be viewed as a twin-pronged strategy — to strengthen our economy and ecosystems — by nurturing both the land and the lives. This initiative symbolises our firm dedication to supporting Indian tribal communities by creating sustainable livelihoods. As the monsoon sets in, we are on course to add another One Million Trees to the Palghar district's natural habitat. Our collaboration with BISLD and

the state government demonstrates our shared vision and commitment towards nation building. Together, we are not just planting trees; we are cultivating hope for a greener and more prosperous tomorrow."

Earlier, in 2018-19, Tata Motors had launched a pilot of the livelihood-based Wadi model, which comprised tree-based farming involving the planting of fruit and forestry trees along with appropriate intercrops on barren or under-used land. Under the pilot, 100 fruit trees (primarily mango and cashew) and 100 forestry trees were planted per acre in Palghar district. The success of the Wadi model inspired its replication at scale through the One Million Plantation drive. Both initiatives have also served the dual purpose of creating revenue sources for the communities, as well as enriching the biodiversity in the project areas.

## MSDE partners with Australian Government to invigorate the Agriculture Sector of India with emerging skills

**Pune (Voice news service):-** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with the Australian Government hosted a comprehensive and a productive roundtable to discuss the learnings from the Australia-India Critical Agriculture Skills Pilot Project.

Led by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE and Mr. Mathew Johnston, Minister Counsellor, Education and Research, Australian High Commission, the roundtable focussed on the opportunities that lay beyond in taking the initiative forward, bringing it up to scale and replicating the model to other sectors. Representatives from National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Agricultural Skill Council of India (ASCI) were also part of the roundtable.

Envisaged in March last year, the project came to fruition after an extensive process of consultation with experts, government organisations, research organisations, multilateral organisations, non-profit organisations, and industry associations. The scoping study involved face-to-face consultations, virtual consultations with 89 experts from 64 organizations and a review of various government reports. The findings were shared with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Australian Government and subsequently 107 emerging job roles were mapped to identify the 5 critical emerging job roles in the agriculture sector for the pilot projects. The next step was to align qualification standards, which was done by Agricultural Skill Council of India (ASCI), and Skills Impact (Sector Skill Council equivalent industry body in Australia), in collaboration, to be approved by National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).

The six pilot projects nearing completion have been implemented in 4 states, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana with

new and emerging job roles in the sector that include Digital Agriculture Extension Promoter, Carbon Farming Practitioner, Livestock Green Management Promoter, Organic Farm & Business Promoter and Integrated Farming Practitioner. The job roles are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals, primarily climate action, reduced inequalities, quality education and industry, innovation & infrastructure.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) said, "The collaboration between India and Australia in Vocational Education and Training has delivered on outcomes and this project is just another testament. Agriculture sector, the backbone of Indian economy is of utmost significance for its role in ensuring food security and employment and with sustained efforts such as the Australia-India Critical Agriculture Skills Project we ensure that the sector meets the challenges of modernization and sustainability. We hope to continue the momentum

and take similar initiatives to many other sectors as well." The course content has been developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Mahindra & Mahindra, Australian College of Agriculture & Horticulture (ACA), Centre of Sustainable Agriculture (CSA), Ironwood Institute, National Skill Foundation of India (NSFI), Aventura Institute, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme and Carbon Friendly, in collaboration, for respective job roles.

Australia has been a key partner for India and both countries are working together on capacity building and training, identifying opportunities in key sectors for closer skill cooperation with a particular focus on new-age courses as per the changing needs and demographics across both the Nations.

Following NEP 2020, India has come up with new initiatives for promoting internationalization of education that include regulations for Joint/Dual/ Twinning degrees and a draft regulation for setting up campuses of foreign universities in India.

## New Z6III Offers Exceptional Specs for Full-Frame Mid-Range Class Models



**Pune (Voice news service):-** Nikon India Private Limited has introduced the Z6III, its new high-performance Hybrid camera model that inherits the signature features of the Z9 and Z8, delivering high performance and exceptional specs in the full-frame mid-range class.

"Continuing upon the legacy of our flagship Z series, the new Z6III stands tall as a pinnacle of performance in the full-frame mid-segment category. Boasting cutting-edge technology, including the world's first partially-stacked CMOS sensor and an unrivaled EVF with a staggering resolution

of 5.7M. With features tailored to meet the demands of India's Wedding and Wildlife videographers, the Z6III delivers breathtaking high-resolution video capabilities of up to 6K/60p, Full HD 240p, and built-in N-Log, N-RAW and Pro Res Raw HQ functionalities. For photographers, it offers unparalleled autofocus precision, improved low light performance and the ability to capture decisive moments at a blazing 120fps with Pre-Release Capture, and continuous shooting at an impressive 20fps," explained Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director, Nikon India Pvt. Ltd.

## EKA Mobility announces second tranche investment from Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

**Pune (Voice news service):-** EKA (Pinnacle Mobility Solutions) announces Mitsui & Co., Ltd. ("Mitsui"), a global trading and investment company with a rich history of contributing to industrial innovation, has executed a second tranche investment as a part of the initially announced phased investment, further solidifying their commitment to the rapidly growing electric vehicle (EV) company.

This strategic infusion of capital will be directed towards capital expenditures (Capex) and working capital, supporting EKA Mobility's continued expansion and innovation in the EV sector. This tranche also establishes an attractive valuation benchmark for the company and is testimony to the rapid growth that EKA is witnessing. In December 2023, EKA, Mitsui & VDL Groep entered into a strategic long-term partnership, that included joint investments of USD 100 million (~ INR 850 crores) in phases, equity, and technology cooperation to create a leading global OEM in India. This is one of the largest and most significant partnerships in the new mobility segment globally.

Under the cooperation, EKA Mobility will receive significant and strategic investments from Mitsui, and technological support & equity partnership from VDL Groep, a leading Dutch technology and manufacturing company.

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.

"We are thrilled to deepen our partnership with EKA Mobility through the investment of this second tranche," said Mr. Hiroshi Takeuchi — Deputy General Manager of Mobility Business Unit 1 of Mitsui. "EKA Mobility has demonstrated strong growth and innovation in the EV space, and we are excited to support their continued success. We look forward to utilizing Mitsui's global network to promote exporting EKA's competitive products to overseas markets.

This investment aligns with Mitsui's strategic focus on sustainable and forward-looking industries, and we are confident that EKA Mobility



will play a pivotal role in the future of transportation."

EKA, headquartered in Pune, India, has been at the forefront of the commercial electric mobility revolution, developing a range of electric buses in 7mtr, 9mtr & 12mtr categories, intercity coaches, and a range of electric light commercial vehicles. EKA is also one of the commercial vehicle manufacturers approved under the Government of India's Auto PLI policy. Mitsui's renewed investment underscores its confidence in EKA Mobility's vision, technology, and market potential.

Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder of EKA (Pinnacle Mobility Solutions), expressed his gratitude for Mitsui's continued support: "We are immensely grateful to Mitsui & VDL Groep for their unwavering confidence and sustained investment in EKA Mobility. The continued investment support will enable us to accelerate our growth trajectory, bring innovative EV solutions to market faster, and further our mission to create a sustainable and green transportation ecosystem. We look forward to a long and successful partnership with Mitsui & VDL."

## ADP India and its 11,700+ associates collaborate with the Akshaya Patra Foundation to Provide 900,000 Meals to Children



**Pune (Voice news service):-** ADP, a global leader in human capital management, proudly announces a significant collaboration with the Akshaya Patra Foundation to provide 900,000 meals to 37,000 children studying in government schools across India. This initiative under Tarang — ADP India CSR Program, is aimed at feeding these children for 1 entire month, underscoring ADP's enduring commitment to community service and social responsibility.

This initiative is inspired by the choice of ADP associates, who expressed their support for the company to make this

donation. Effectively, each ADP associate and their family will feed three children for an entire month! "At ADP, we strongly believe in giving back and the positive impact we can create as a strong family of 11,700+ associates to the communities where we live and work," said Vijay Vemulapalli, General Manager and Managing Director, ADP India. "Feeding children is not just about providing meals; it's about nourishing their dreams and futures. By ensuring that children have access to nutritious meals at least once a day, we believe that we are also supporting their education and

well-being. We are deeply committed to making a difference, and I am incredibly proud of our associates for their overwhelming support of this initiative, especially as a token of gratitude for our communities for making us their part for the last 25 years in India."

"At ADP, each of us deeply understands the profound impact of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in nurturing inclusive growth. The compassion and dedication of our associates to social responsibility are truly inspiring. This partnership with the Akshaya Patra Foundation reflects our collective commitment to ensuring that no child goes hungry. Our objective is to transform lives and create a brighter future for children through this initiative and other flagship Tarang programs like MIDAS, Model Schools, and more which support the Education and well-being of 35000+ children from the underserved communities of Hyderabad and Pune. Together, we are not just providing meals; we are fostering hope and opportunity for thousands

of children," said Mr. Sujnan Venkatesh, Senior Vice President and Head of HR, ADP Pvt. Ltd.

This donation is part of ADP's broader commitment to corporate social responsibility through Tarang. Over the past 25 years of its operations in India, ADP has made significant contributions to various causes, including the installation of 83 CCTV cameras for community safety in Hyderabad, the establishment of an ICU ward at Nilofar Children's Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic, and donation to the PM COVID Relief Fund. Most recently, ADP concluded its May Month of Caring 2024, which involved numerous charitable activities through associate donations and volunteer efforts across its Hyderabad and Pune offices. In addition to several initiatives for children, women and youth empowerment, and community health and sustainability, this amplifies ADP India's larger CSR strategy that looks at the company's behavior towards a wave of corporate citizenship and social development.

## Hottest New Opening Alert: Saudi welcomes Nujuma, a Ritz Carlton Reserve at The Red Sea

**Pune (Voice news service):-** A dynamic destination with plenty on offer, Saudi has something for everyone. Whether you're the type of traveller who seeks a quiet hotel on a private island, a remote desert getaway, a bespoke wellness retreat, or a lavish spot in a bustling city - we've got you covered! Gearing up to take Saudi's spirit of hospitality to a whole new level, the country has recently opened its doors to Nujuma, a Ritz Carlton Reserve, The Red Sea.

Blending intuitive and heartfelt service with stunning natural beauty and indigenous design, Nujuma is the first property from the brand in the Middle East and joins an exclusive collection of only five Ritz-Carlton Reserves worldwide.

Inspired by the word Nujum, meaning 'stars' in Arabic, Nujuma invites travelers to embark on an uncharted journey to one of the world's most secluded and protected archipelagos. The hotel is situated on a

pristine set of private islands, which are part of the Red Sea's Blue Hole cluster of islands. Surrounded by unspoiled natural beauty and designed to blend seamlessly with the environment, the resort features 63 one-to-four-bedroom water and beach villas. Designed by Foster and Partners, Nujuma's sweeping shell-inspired architecture and elegant interiors are crafted with natural materials imbued with calming sea and sand tones, and geometric patterns reminiscent of the

region's design motifs. Visitors can also notice Arabic artifacts, traditional ceramics, woven Saudi patterned rugs, and intricate wall hangings celebrating local craftsmanship flow through the canopied interiors. When not soaking up the tranquil surroundings from the comfort of their own villa, guests can indulge in a lavish spa, swimming pools, a range of restaurants, and a retail area, or learn more about the prized natural setting at a Conservation Centre.

## Škoda Auto India announces new value proposition on Kushaq and Slavia Range now starts at ₹ 10.69 lakh

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Škoda Auto India, in continuation to its initiatives of making the brand more accessible, announced the Kushaq and Slavia with higher value, enabling enhanced accessibility to its line-up of cars that are 5-star rated and fully safe for both adults and children.

Speaking on the enhancement, Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said: "We have been in India for nearly a quarter of a century, and our commitment to this market is absolute. We have always been looking at offering more in product and

affiliated actions. Since the announcement of our all-new compact SUV planned for 2025, we have maintained that with this new car, we are targeting new markets, younger customers and more accessibility to the brand. While the new compact SUV will open new markets for us, we have achieved some efficiencies in the Kushaq and the Slavia, which has enabled us to enhance the value in our offerings and pass on the benefits to our customers and fans."

Customers can select from a choice of exchange & corporate bonus options, special

increase with the upcoming launch of the Compact SUV. Our dealers need to be motivated and profitable, with highly trained and experienced sales consultants. And that's why we have launched the best-ever value proposition on the Kushaq, all across the country, supported with tailor-made, unique customer offers in line with customers' needs and preferences," added Mr. Janeba.

