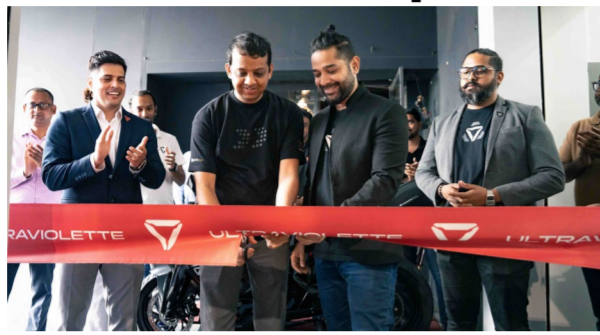




Ultraviolette inaugurates its state-of-the-art Experience Center - the UV Space Station in Pune

Pune (Voice news service):- Ultraviolette (UV), a leading innovator in Electric Vehicle Platforms and Battery Technology, today inaugurated its retail experience center - Ultraviolette Space Station in Shivajinagar, Pune. Spanning 2,100 sq. ft., the Ultraviolette Space Station is meticulously designed to offer a unique ownership experience to both existing and prospective Ultraviolette customers. The F77 MACH 2 will be available for test rides and purchase at the experience center.



Pune's UV Space Station joins Ultraviolette's vision for 50 Global futuristic experience centers worldwide

"Pune's strategic location and dynamic market make it an ideal choice for expanding our presence. The UV Space Station has been designed to cater to the growing demand for performance motorcycles and to offer a comprehensive brand experience. We are strategically choosing the cities where we want to create a robust network of Ultraviolette experience centers that embody advanced technology and infrastructure, fostering a deeper connection with our growing community."

The new experience center offers a comprehensive range of facilities to meet all sales and service requirements, including a showroom and display area, service center and workshop, charging infrastructure and a customer lounge. Customers who visit the UV Space Station can expect a futuristic and new age customer experience, featuring interactive technology zones, seamless vehicle configuration, tech enabled merchandise, an accessory zone, test ride experience, vehicle delivery zone and comprehensive service support.

Niraj Rajmohan, CTO & Co-Founder of Ultraviolette emphasized the importance of the new retail presence in Pune, stating, "From the state-of-the-art service center to the charging infrastructure, every aspect of this experience center has been designed to meet the highest standards of quality and convenience. We believe that by providing a holistic and high-quality customer experience, we can accelerate the adoption of performance electric motorcycles across the country. Both the sales and service team at Pune have been trained and certified at the Ultraviolette training center in Bengaluru." The launch of the Pune Space Station represents a significant milestone in Ultraviolette's expansion strategy. Pune's UV Space Station joins Ultraviolette's vision for 50 Global futuristic experience centers worldwide. This new location will serve current and prospective owners in Pune and surrounding regions. The experience center is located at Showroom No. S3, Epicentre 64-C1, Old Mumbai - Shiv Highway, Wakdevadi, Shivajinagar, Pune, Maharashtra.

iSprout Inaugurates Third Center in Pune, Crossing 2.2 Million Square Feet Nationwide

Pune (Voice news service):- iSprout, a leading Managed Office Spaces provider in India, proudly announces the launch of its premium center at Grey Stone Baner, Pune. This new addition marks iSprout's 20th center in the country and its third in Pune, pushing the company's total managed office space to over 2.2 million square feet.



The new center, spanning 100,000 square feet, occupies an entire tower with 1600 seats across 9 floors. It is designed to cater to the needs of business enterprises with a host of premium facilities and services, continuing iSprout's tradition of providing innovative, client-friendly office solutions. Founded by Ms. Sundari Patibandla and Mr. Sreeni Tirdhala, iSprout opened its first center in Hyderabad in 2017 and has since expanded to multiple cities including Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi-NCR, and Vijayawada. Known for their strategic leadership and visionary approach, the founders emphasized the importance of creating a friendly and hygienic office environment, aligning with the resurgence of office culture among multinational companies.

Ms. Sundari Patibandla, CEO of iSprout, highlighted the company's commitment to transforming business ideas into viable enterprises. "We are dedicated to providing more than just physical workspaces. Our goal is to offer a comprehensive range of business support services, including company setup, accounting, payroll, registrations, and tax-related tasks, ensuring our clients can focus on their core operations."

Mr. Sreeni Tirdhala elaborated on iSprout's stand-out features, such as detailed customer service, competitive pricing, and easy documentation. "Our centers are designed to meet the growing demand for office spaces in modern suburbs with a high concentration of tech companies. We aim to redefine the workspace experience by creating well-serviced, attractive environments."

iSprout currently operates in major cities and plans to expand to Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Goa, and Kochi, aiming to reach a total of 25 centers and 3 million square feet of office space by the end of 2024. The dedicated project execution team, led by Mr. Manivannan, Director of Projects at iSprout, ensures that all facilities are built efficiently without compromising on quality. The launch event was attended by high-profile corporate executives, builders, and business delegates, showcasing iSprout's dedication to creating unique and premium workspaces.

Samsung Announces 'India Cheers for Neeraj' Campaign



Pune (Voice news service):- Samsung today announced that it is requesting fans to come forward and send their good wishes for Neeraj Chopra through the 'India Cheers for Neeraj' campaign. With the campaign, Samsung India's aim is to support and empower Neeraj to strive for excellence and push beyond boundaries.

their productivity and changing the way they work and live. "Samsung believes in empowering individuals to push beyond their limits and achieve greatness. We are putting our might behind Neeraj Chopra, who embodies excellence and limitless possibilities, values that are deeply respected at Samsung. With the 'India Cheers for Neeraj' campaign, we aim to harness the collective energy of the nation and 'Unfold the Best' in cheering for Neeraj," said Aditya Babbar, Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India.

Apart from receiving the all-new Galaxy Z Fold6, Neeraj Chopra would also receive the Special Edition Galaxy Z Flip6 and a personalized Flip-suit case. "I am grateful to Samsung India for their unwavering support and the motivation provided through the 'India Cheers Neeraj' campaign. The encouragement and well wishes from fans are invaluable and fuel my determination to succeed. With each challenge that I overcome, I'm drawn closer to my targets and unfolding this journey with me is the all-new Galaxy Z Fold6. This remarkable device with its cutting-edge Galaxy AI features empowers me to perform at my best. The mantra of 'GalaxyFoldsGold' embodies my drive to push beyond boundaries," said Neeraj Chopra.

To channelize consumer enthusiasm and amplify the collective cheer of the nation, Samsung India has unveiled a film to bolster support for Neeraj Chopra. Embodying the spirit of resilience and determination of the ace athlete as he fights through multiple challenges, this film highlights how Samsung's recently-launched Galaxy Z Fold6 smartphone aids his journey. Galaxy Z Fold6 pushes the bar with its powerful Galaxy AI technology, offering unparalleled experiences to consumers. Powered by Galaxy AI, the Galaxy Z Fold6 comes with AI features such as Interpreter and Note Assist, allowing users to communicate more effectively, enhancing

Vice Chairman and CEO JH Han Visits Noida Factory, Signaling Growing Importance of India for Samsung

Pune (Voice news service):- Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. announced that Jong-Hee (JH) Han, Vice Chairman, CEO and Head of the Device eXperience (DX) Division at Samsung Electronics, is currently on his second visit to India this year. The trip signals the growing importance of the country for the South Korean giant, and includes Han's visit to the company's Noida factory — where Samsung manufactures smartphones, tablets and refrigerators. "India is one of the biggest and fastest-growing markets globally and offers a huge opportunity for Samsung," said Han. "We were among the first companies to invest in India, and I am happy that the Noida factory has emerged as one of our biggest facilities, manufacturing not only for India, but for the world."

Samsung unveiled its "AI for All" vision — which aims to improve the lives of consumers by bringing artificial intelligence and hyper-connectivity through open collaboration — at the start of the year. This year, Samsung's Galaxy AI-powered premium smartphones and Bespoke AI home appliances — such as refrigerators, ACs and washing machines — have together created a unique connected devices ecosystem, enabling consumers to save energy besides providing convenience, connectivity and comfort. This 'One Samsung' experience driven by advanced technology has helped create differentiation for the company's products and is driving strong consumer interest in segments such as premium refrigerators, which has been growing rapidly over the past years in India as consumers shift to big capacity refrigerators providing enhanced features.

Samsung continues to show leadership, introducing premium products into the market with Bespoke design and AI features. Jong-Hee (JH) Han, Vice Chairman, CEO and Head of the Device eXperience (DX) Division at Samsung Electronics visit Samsung Factory, in Noida, Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, UNI PHOTO-115U "India has a large population of tech-savvy young consumers that inspire us to innovate," Han added. "I am proud that many young, enterprising engineers who are playing an important role in the development of AI are working at our R&D centers in India."

Payoneer Hosts Pune Connect: Elevating Pune as a Leading Growth Hub for India's Service Exports

Pune (Voice news service):- Payoneer (NASDAQ: PAYO), the financial technology company empowering the world's small- and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) to transact, do business, and grow globally, hosted the fourth edition of Payoneer VIP Connect on 31st July 2024 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Pune, Maharashtra.



The event brought together over 65+ entrepreneurs, founders, and decision-makers from service export SMBs across various domains, including IT, web and app development, programming and technical support, consulting and management, and digital marketing and sales. Attendees had the opportunity to network, gain insights, and learn strategies for international business expansion. Building on the success of Payoneer Elevate, this event is another initiative by Payoneer in India, marking a significant step towards empowering the city's entrepreneurial community. Attendees discussed strategies for global expansion, the importance of international partnerships, overcoming

cross-border payment challenges, and efficiency across borders for global teams. Gaurav Shisodia, Vice President - India at Payoneer, commented, "SMBs have a tremendous opportunity to drive growth by tapping into global demand. At Payoneer, we have witnessed and catalyzed significant growth for service export businesses: from 2016 to December 31, 2023, growth surged by 54%, with volume and revenue achieving impressive compound annual growth rates (CAGRs) of 85% and 88%, respectively. "Pune is one of our priority markets in India, ranking among the top 10 cities driv-

ing the most growth for us. We are committed to providing a platform for the city's business ecosystem through Payoneer Connect. This initiative supports businesses by facilitating learning, networking, and access to domain experts, helping them accelerate their international growth opportunities," he added. "Note -This data is accurate up to December 31, 2023, and pertains specifically to Payoneer for the India market. All data as of 2016 - December 31, 2023, and related only to Payoneer for the India market. Key panels at Payoneer VIP Connect Pune included: "Seizing Global Growth Opportunities" - Pune-based business leaders Mohan Jambhulkar (CEO, Target AEC Global) and Pranshu Tople (Co-Founder, RigBetel Labs) explored global market opportunities, addressing the biggest challenges Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) face in international expansion and strategies for maintaining competitiveness. As entrepreneurs managing global businesses, the speakers provided practical tips on multi-entirety operations, overcoming cross-border payment challenges, and how to achieve global success. "Addressing Data Privacy & Cybersecurity Hurdles in Global Markets" - Shivangi Nadkarni (Co-founder & CEO of Arrka) delved into the critical obstacles and technology challenges businesses commonly encounter. She provided an in-depth analysis of the current landscape of data privacy and cybersecurity, highlighting the essential strategies businesses should adopt to safeguard their operations in an increasingly interconnected world.

From Monsoon Struggles to Modern Resilience

Pune (Voice news service):- Bhandi Bazaar, a cultural hub in Mumbai renowned for its food, and rich culture has long faced annual monsoon challenges. The area suffered with flooding, overflowing gutters, and unsafe living conditions, exacerbated by MHADA declaring over 80% of buildings unfit for habitation. In present times, with approximately 14,000 cessed buildings, many have become extremely dangerous, particularly during the monsoon season. To prevent further tragedies, MHADA is urging residents and landowners to initiate redevelopment projects. While the BMC routinely implemented pre-monsoon measures such as desilting drains and removing debris, locals sought a more sustainable, long-term solution to their annual monsoon fears. For residents of Bhandi Ba-

zaar, rains were synonymous with compromised living conditions, struggle and fear of losing all that was earned; a distressed feeling that everyone hoped to eradicate completely. Several parts of Bhandi Bazaar were situated in low-lying areas, making them prone to flooding even with moderate rainfall. The drainage systems were often clogged with debris and silt, which worsened the scenario further. With these perennial problems a substantial impact also came onto the economic landscape by disrupting local businesses. Stagnant water and unsanitary conditions would increase the risk of waterborne diseases — leaving locals in complete distress. In response to these pressing issues, the Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT), a non-profit organization, assumed responsibility in 2009

to revamp the area's infrastructure, aiming to withstand future challenges and enhance overall quality of life. The initiative is a concerted effort to preserve Bhandi Bazaar's 150-year-old cultural legacy while addressing the needs of its residents and businesses. Spanning 16.5 acres divided into nine self-sustained sectors, the redevelopment project features modern buildings, expanded roads, ample open spaces, and organized commercial areas. Phase 1 of the project, named AI Saadha, successfully rehoused 610 families and 128 businesses by its completion in 2020. SBUT strongly asserts that the redevelopment project has always been and will continue to be conducted in strict accordance with all government regulations. The project team has taken every step to ensure full compliance with

legal standards and necessary approvals. Any rumors or speculations suggesting otherwise are false and incorrect. This redevelopment will play as a model for cluster-based urban renewal projects across India. As the first project registered under the DCR 33(9) scheme, it has faced unique challenges and continues to thrive and persevere towards its conclusion. By transforming Bhandi Bazaar from a monsoon-vulnerable area into a resilient, sustainable neighbourhood, this project is not only improving living conditions but also will be setting a new standard for urban redevelopment in India. It will be a demonstration of how thoughtful planning can address long-standing infrastructure issues while respecting and enhancing a community's cultural identity, all within the framework of legal compliance.

Blue Dart Boosts Farmer Income by Supporting Swades Foundation's Safed Musli Revival in Nashik

Pune (Voice news service):- Blue Dart Express Ltd., South Asia's premier express air, integrated transportation, and distribution logistics company, proudly announces its collaboration with the Swades Foundation to revitalize Safed Musli cultivation in Nashik as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). This joint initiative has significantly enhanced farmer incomes and provided an innovative solution for crop diversification. Safed

Musli (Chlorophytum borivilianum), a high-value tuber crop renowned for its medicinal properties, such as enhancing vitality, boosting immunity, and addressing gynecological disorders, had been critically endangered due to unsustainable collection and habitat loss. The tropical climate and altitude of Surgana taluka in Nashik create an ideal environment for cultivating this valuable herb. However, the high cost of planting material had deterred widespread cul-

tivation. Swades Foundation, a grassroots organization dedicated to rural empowerment, partnered with Blue Dart in FY'23-24 to conduct a pilot program involving 82 households in Nashik, each cultivating Safed Musli on 5 gunthas (5,000 sq feet) of land. Through comprehensive training and support from Swades, farmers were introduced to Safed Musli cultivation, provided with high-quality planting material, and guided throughout the crop cycle to

the post-harvest stage. The results were remarkable, with farmers achieving a yield valued at Rs. 1,200 per kilogram, leading to an income of Rs. 28,575 per household. Following the pilot program's success, approximately 60% of the participating farmers planned to expand their cultivation area to 20 gunthas (20,000 sq feet) this year. This expansion is expected to generate an income of Rs. 1-1.2 lakhs over a 3-4-month period in FY 2024-25.

Tata Punch becomes the fastest to cross 4 Lakh sales milestone among SUVs



Pune (Voice news service):- Tata Motors, India's leading SUV manufacturer, is thrilled to announce that the Tata Punch has achieved a remarkable milestone, becoming the fastest to cross 4 Lakh sales milestone among SUVs, in just 34 months. Launched in October 2021, the Tata Punch introduced India to the sub compact SUV category. With its tall stance, high ground clearance and commanding driving position, the Punch is a stunning bold SUV that provides an exhilarating driving experience while smoothly navigating the diverse Indian terrains. Demonstrating the same, the Tata Punch emerged as one of the first front-wheel drive SUV to conquer the unpredictable peak of Sandakphu. Manoeuvring its way through the steep gradients, it proved its SUV capability to the world and truly punched above its weight, beating all the odds. Ahead of its launch, the Punch received the coveted GNCAP 5-star rating with the highest adult occupant protection rating points achieved by any vehicle at that time. In August 2022, the Punch set a new benchmark in the industry, by becoming the first SUV to achieve the 1 Lakh sales milestone in a span of just 10 months. Ever since, the journey to next 1 Lakh has narrowed with the 2 Lakh

milestone being clocked in the next 9 months, shortly followed by the 3 Lakh milestone in 7 months. Furthermore, while the launch of the Punch iNGN in 2023 — First SUV with Tata Motors' innovative twin-cylinder technology with a no compromise boot space, disrupted the market, the introduction of the Punch.ev in January 2024 boosted the sales even further by making it accessible to a larger customer base in multiple drivetrains. Speaking on this accomplishment, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "Tata Motors has always been known for its deep understanding of the Indian consumer. This attribute enables us to create disruptive yet highly functional products. With the Punch, we not only introduced the Indian market to a new sub-segment but also successfully democratized the SUV attributes by offering a comprehensive package in a compact footprint. We are elated that the Punch has resonated so well with the Indian consumers and has progressively found a loyal customer base, who have become its biggest brand ambassadors. We take great pride in crossing this milestone and are confident that the next 1 Lakh will be achieved even faster."

Godawari Electric Motors expands its EV two-wheeler portfolio

Pune (Voice news service):- Godawari Electric Motors, manufacturers of the Eblu range of electric 2 and 3-wheelers, announced the launch of a new variant of India's first family e-scooter, Eblu Feo X. This is the second product from the company in the EV two-wheeler segment in India. The Eblu Feo X was unveiled at Bharat Global Mobility Expo 2024. Eblu Feo X will now be offered with 28 liters of storage space. The e-scooter will continue to feature 2.36 kW battery and offer a 110 km range. Eblu Feo X will be priced at INR 99,999 (ex-showroom). Commenting on the launch, Mr. Hyder Khan, CEO of Godawari Electric Motors, said, "Eblu Feo X has been designed with customer feedback on our existing product, featuring a timeless design

and focusing on offering superior comfort. Feo X is a blend of performance and safety with great value for money. With our expansion into the EV two-wheeler segment, Godawari Electric Motors further strengthens its commitment to the next generation of mobility in India." He added, "We have been buoyed by the response to our existing EV products and with a robust retail network pan-India, we can cater to the demand of a wider customer base. EV two-wheeler segment has seen remarkable progress in the past couple of years in India, and we are confident that Eblu Feo X will exceed the expectations and aspirations of next-generation buyers. The 500 Eblu Feo X pre-orders testify to customers' trust in our brand."

Sun Marathi Unveils New Talk Show 'Houde Charcha Karyakram Ahe Gharcha' with Sonalee Kulkarni as Host

Pune (Voice news service):- Sun Marathi is excited to announce the launch of their new talk show, 'Houde Charcha Karyakram Ahe Gharcha.' Hosted by the talented Sonalee Kulkarni, the show will blend entertainment, gossip, and heartfelt conversations with popular celebrities from Marathi cinema and prominent political figures.



Featuring a stellar lineup, the show will feature prominent personalities like Kranti Redkar, Sameer Wankhede, and Prathna Behere, as well as influential political guests such as Amruta Fadnavis. As the celebrities share their present, past, and future aspirations with host Sonalee Kulkarni, viewers will gain an exclusive insight into their fa-

vorite stars beyond their characters. Sharing her excitement about hosting Sun Marathi's new talk show, actress Sonalee Kulkarni said, "I'm thrilled to be a part of 'Houde Charcha Karyakram Ahe Gharcha.' While I've had the pleasure of judging a few shows before, this is my first time stepping into the role of a host, and

I'm genuinely excited about it. This show is all about creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere where our guests can relax, have fun, and share their stories. I can't wait for the viewers to join us on this wonderful journey and experience the magic of heartfelt conversations." The show promises an engaging experience with a va-

riety of segments, including 'Ghot bhar Chaha - Pot Bhar Gappa,' nostalgic moments, and fun games with the guests. Through segments exploring various stages of life—such as School Days, College Days, Married Life, and Present Life—audiences will gain a closer look at their beloved stars like never before.

'Houde Charcha Karyakram Ahe Gharcha' promises a captivating series of insightful, spicy, and savory conversations that reveal new facets of your favorite stars. Don't miss out—tune in to Sun Marathi from August 4th and dive into homey chats brimming with laughter, nostalgia, and camaraderie only on 'Houde Charcha Karyakram Ahe Gharcha.'

Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara continues to 'RULE EVERY ROAD'; Clocks fastest 2 lakh unit sales in the mid-SUV space since launch

Pune (Voice news service):- Maruti Suzuki India Limited is delighted to announce Grand Vitara's new benchmark in the SUV space, crossing the 2-lakh sales milestone in just 23 months. This remarkable achievement makes it the fastest mid-size SUV to reach this milestone in a record time and underscores Grand Vitara's immense popularity.



Embodying NEXA's 'Create. Inspire.' philosophy, the Grand Vitara is a multi-product offering that has made its mark in the country's SUV segment. Launched in 2022, it has pioneered a new era of SUVs, combining fuel-efficient powertrains with segment-leading features, a strong road presence, and sophisticated interiors.

These advancements are crucial as India moves towards cleaner, more sustainable automobile solutions. To highlight the capabilities of its Strong Hybrid Technology, Maruti Suzuki launched an impactful and compelling campaign – "IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. IT'S STRONG HYBRID" in Q1 FY24-25. The campaign stems from a simple yet powerful thought – Maruti Suzuki's Strong Hybrid Technology has extraordinary real-world benefits that are very relevant for today's ever-evolving customers.

A standout feature of the campaign was a remarkable journey of over 1200 km that one can fulfill in a full tank, that too with lower emissions, demonstrating the efficiency and performance of the Grand Vitara's Strong Hybrid Technology. The campaign also demonstrated how Maruti Suzuki's Strong Hybrid technology combines dual power sources – an Internal Combustion Engine and an Electric Motors, that is powered by Lithium-ion battery.

With the ability to be 60% on EV mode*, the technology delivers an eco-friendly and remarkably silent drive experience.

Engineered to dominate every road, the Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara has strongly resonated with its customers on account of its exciting performance, distinctive style, commanding presence, and multiple powertrain options. The legendary Suzuki ALLGRIP SELECT technology further encourages customers to wander off the beaten path and explore remote destinations with confidence and ease.

The Grand Vitara also boasts a host of premium features such as a 22.86cm (9") Smart Play Pro+ entertainment system, Head Up Display, 360 View Camera, Wireless Charging Dock, panoramic sunroof, ventilated seats, Clarion® Premium Sound System, PM 2.5 Air Cabin Filter and more, making this mid-size SUV the ideal choice for discerning customers. And its latest benchmark of 2 Lakh unit sales is a strong testament to the same.

Elevating the safety bar, the Grand Vitara is equipped with an array of active and passive safety features, including Type Pressure Monitoring System and the newly introduced Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System (AVAS) in its Strong Hybrid variant, and is the only premium CNG SUV to offer a 6-airbag variant for customers.

Celebrating this record-breaking milestone, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "The introduction of the Grand Vitara has been pivotal for us in the SUV segment. This dynamic vehicle has truly demonstrated its excellence by becoming India's fastest mid-SUV to surpass 2 lakh sales in just 23 months. The Grand Vitara has revolutionized its segment by inspiring customers to make sustainable choices with the Strong Hybrid. The ALLGRIP technology has also resonated well with SUV lovers, furthering our endeavour to promote clean mobility solu-

Pro Govinda League 2024 Team Draft sets the tone for thrilling Season 2

Pune (Voice news service):- The much-anticipated Team Draft of the 2024 edition of Pro Govinda League took place at Taj Lands End in Bandra on Saturday, 3rd August 2024.



The organizers of the league including Chairman and Founder of Pro Govinda League & MLA Mr. Pratap Sarnaik, Chairman & Founder of the Pro Govinda League, Mr. Purvesh Pratap Sarnaik, Pro Govinda League President & Working President of Yuva Sena (the youth wing of Shiv Sena), Mr. Mazhar Nadiadwala, Managing Director of Dome Entertainment & Director of Cineyug Group of companies and Mr. Mohomed Morani, Chairman & Director - Dome and Cineyug Group of Companies, along with the owners of the 16 franchises were present for the draft.

champions Jai Jawan Govinda.

The owners arbitrarily picked their respective teams, boosting the excitement levels as hundreds of Govindas gear up for the thrilling competition on 18th August 2024. The Konkani Giants became the first team to be picked up in the Pro Govinda League 2024 Team Draft after J Kumar Infraprojects owner Mr. Nalin Gupta drew the glittering green jersey from the pot. The Giants will be represented by Kokan Nagar Govinda. The Giants were followed by Satara Singhams to be picked up by Pratik Shelke-owned PRS Infra. The Singhams will be represented by Season 1

The Latur Legends franchise went on to be picked up by Vinay Chugh-owned Eagle Infra India Limited. The ambitious Yash Govinda group will feature for Legends in Season 2. Led by Aksha Kamboj, Aspect Sports Private Limited drafted Amravati Gladiators who will be represented by the renowned Ashtavinayak Govinda. Ashtavinayak Govinda were the winners of the tournament when it was held outdoors in 2019.

Further, Shree Aagreshwar Govinda were drafted to play as Nashik Challengers, a franchise owned by Ranjit Singh Bindra & well-known singer Mika Singh while Gajanan Construction Limited owned by Vijay Patel drew Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Warriors. Shiv Ganesh Govinda will form the Warriors in the upcoming edition of the league. COBX Gaming Private Limited backed by Mr. Rohan

Gupta and Mrs. Anushka Gupta, then went on to draw the Raigad Royals jersey from the pot. The Hindu Ekta Govinda group will play for the Royals as they get ready to establish dominance in the league. Next up, Palladian Partners picked the Central Mumbai franchise and Om Brahmam Sai Govinda were drawn to represent the side.

The excitement for the Team Draft shot up once again as Siddhesh Kadam-backed Shreem Hyundi and Arjun Kandhari's B Kandhari Group stepped up on the stage to draw their teams. The two corporates picked up Mira Bhaider Yodhas (Bal Utsahi Govinda) and Navi Mumbai Strikers (Om Sai Seva Govinda) respectively.

Meet Bros of the Bollywood fame along with film & television star Arjun Bijlani selected Pune Panthers. The ferocious Vignaharta Govinda group will represent the Panthers. Amravati Gladiators were the next franchise to be drafted

in the Pro Govinda League 2024 Team Draft. The franchise was selected by Aspect Sports Private Limited, led by Aksha Kamboj. Ashtavinayak Govinda will form the Gladiators.

Mohit Singhal of Melstarr Information Technologies Limited followed suit to hand-pick Kolhapur Kings jersey from the pot. The Kings will be looking forward to a successful campaign with Balveer Govinda. Next up, Nagpur Ninjas were selected by JP Infra Realty Private Limited, owned by Vijay Jain. The Ninjas will aim for glory with Shiv Sai Krida Govinda, who boast of making it to the Limca Book of Records for their sheer brilliance.

A loud cheer ensued in the hall as Thane Tigers were picked up by Mr. Gopal Lalwani of the DGM Group. The exciting Aryans Govinda group, known to be one of the most promising teams in the league, will don the Tigers' jersey in the upcoming season. Dheeraj Jethani-owned Konark Group of Companies drew Baramati Blasters, becoming the penultimate company to pick a side in the team draft.

Finally, the draft came to conclusion with Odyssey Sports LLP's Bhavesh Shah picking up Western Mumbai. Hindmata Govinda will represent the franchise.

Following the draft, the franchise owners and league organizers addressed the media in a press conference. a

R.B. Horangi and St. Felix School Athletes won four Gold & Two Bronze Medals at the International Taekwondo Competition



Pune: At the 17th World Taekwondo Cultural Expo held in South Korea, the international competition in Muju, which included Taekwondo Kyoreugi and Poomsae, athletes from Pune's R.B. Horangi Taekwondo Do Jang Association and St. Felix School win four gold and two bronze medals in Kyoreugi and

Poomsae. The event attracted over 3,000 competitors from 27 countries, including India, South Korea, China, Thailand, Taiwan, Australia, the USA, Nepal, Tunisia, Germany, Russia, Japan, North Korea, Indonesia, etc. Yuthika Sandeep Kumar won gold medals in both Taekwondo Poomsae and



Kyoreugi. Arvin Pilakudy and Swalika Khan won bronze medals in Taekwondo Poomsae and gold medals in Kyoreugi. These athletes were guided by Master Ravindra Bhandari (Fifth Dan Black Belt). Yuthika was awarded a Second Dan Black Belt certificate by Taekwondo Kuk-

kiwon President Dong Sup Lee and World Hapkido Federation President Don Oh Choi. R.B. Horangi President Master Ravindra Bhandari, St. Felix School's Ursula Pinto, Rosemary Almeida, Principal Jennifer Pereira, Supervisor Sister Elsa, and Leena Paul congratulated the winning athletes.

MIT-ADT University Tops State in ABC ID Registration, Earns UGC Praise

Pune: MIT Art, Design and Technology University (MIT-ADT) has secured the top spot among private universities in the state for registering the most Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) numbers. The University Grants Commission (UGC) lauded MIT-ADT for its exceptional performance in a recent virtual meeting. The ABC ID, similar to an Aadhaar number for students, is vital for transferring credits in inter-disciplinary and optional subjects. The UGC has been encouraging students to register for ABC IDs, which facilitate easy credit transfer and accumulation. Responding to this call, MIT-ADT has registered over

15,566 accounts, covering more than 28,202 credits, putting it at the forefront of this initiative. MIT World Peace University and Amethi University followed, securing second and third places, respectively. Nationally, over two crore students from 1,597 institutions have registered for ABC IDs, with Maharashtra alone contributing over 40 lakh students. Educational institutions are now actively recording student marks in ABC accounts, ensuring that private universities are not left behind. Dr. Dyandeo Neelwana, the Controller of Examinations at MIT-ADT, announced the uni-

versity's achievement, which was met with praise from the UGC. The executive team at MIT ADT, including Executive President and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mangesh Karad, Executive Director Prof. Dr. Sunita Karad, Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Anant Chakradeo, Dr. Ramchandra Pujeri, Dr. Mohit Dubey, Registrar Dr. Mahesh Chopde and Dr. Shivsharan Mali congratulated the examination department on this milestone. Understanding the ABC ID The ABC ID system allows students to bank credits earned from different educational institutions, akin to withdrawing money from a bank

account. Students can create their ABC ID online through the official website, making it easier for institutions to use these credits towards degree completion. Benefits for Students 1) Easy Credit Transfer: Students can transfer credits earned from various universities or institutions seamlessly. 2) Utilization After Gaps: Students returning to their studies after a gap can use their banked credits. 3) Simplified Grading: Grading of preferred or skill-oriented courses becomes straightforward. 4) Nationwide Recognition: Credits can be earned and recognized from any educational institution across the country.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with Britannia Launches Women Entrepreneurship Program

Pune: In a pivotal move towards empowering women entrepreneurs and spurring economic growth, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is excited to unveil the Women Entrepreneurship Program. This initiative, aims to tackle the challenges faced by women in entrepreneurship by offering crucial skills, knowledge, and networking opportunities. The program has been launched with the introduction of complimentary self-learning basic entrepreneurship courses available in multiple languages on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). Upon completion of these courses, participants will receive a co-branded certificate from NSDC, Britannia Industries and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), acknowledging their entrepreneurial skills and competencies. This initiative aims to empower approximately 25 lakh women across India, providing them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses. The initiative will culminate in a grand finale where the top 50 contestants will present their business ideas to a distinguished jury. To further encourage innovation and excellence, Britannia Industries will award financial grants of 10 lakh rupees each to 10 of the most successful contestants. At the launch of this program, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GOI said, "It is our privilege

that Britannia has partnered with us, focusing on women entrepreneurship. We have achieved significant progress in entrepreneurship through NIESBUD and special programs with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development and other ministries. We are also collaborating closely with other corporates and government departments, to provide skill training to women's self-help groups, whether individually or collectively, and to help organize them into various business entities. In the skilling segment, under Jan Shikshan Sansthan, 82% of our trainees are women. In the PMKVY short-term training program, close to 45% of the participants are women." Echoing this sentiment, Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, COO (Officiating CEO), NSDC & MD, NSDC International stated, "Today, this program is about women-led entrepreneurship and aligns with the Prime Minister's vision for women development. One of the most important component of this is that private and public sector organisation are going together telling women to have entrepreneurial ambitions. From Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao to Lakshmi Didi, India has travelled a lot of distance when it comes to women development."

National Skill Development Corporation is a game-changer for women's empowerment in India. By providing free courses and advanced training to millions of aspiring women entrepreneurs, we are not just opening doors but breaking down barriers. This partnership amplifies our commitment to creating a nurturing ecosystem where women can lead, innovate, and drive our economy forward. Together, we are empowering women to reach their full potential."

entrepreneurship courses through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). These courses, available in multiple languages, will cover crucial topics such as entrepreneurial skills, enterprise setup, finance basics, digital skills, and market analysis. In the next phase, NSDC extends robust incubation support to 10,000 shortlisted contestants across 100 business models. This support encompasses business model selection, entrepreneurship development programs, industrial workshops, business registration assistance, project report preparation, and guidance on funding through various government entrepreneurship and startup schemes. Additionally, participants' products and services will be highlighted on SIDH's e-commerce platform, UdhyanKart and Britannia's digital ecosystem for women entrepreneurship. NSDC will conduct periodic impact assessments to evaluate the success and sustainability of the supported businesses, ensuring the program's long-term effectiveness. This initiative marks a significant effort to broaden the reach and visibility of women-led enterprises, creating a supportive ecosystem that empowers women entrepreneurs to realize their full potential. The partnership between NSDC and Britannia highlights a shared commitment to cultivating an environment where women entrepreneurs can flourish and significantly contribute to India's economic advancement.

Paytm Launches India's First NFC Card Soundbox

Pune (Voice news service):- One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns the brand Paytm, India's leading payments and financial services distribution company and the pioneer of QR and mobile payments, has announced the launch of India's first 'Paytm NFC Card Soundbox.' This next-generation payment device combines NFC technology with mobile QR payments, offering an affordable device for card payments to millions of offline merchants. Paytm's new NFC Card Soundbox marks the next chapter in mobile payments with NFC card payment technology. It

democratizes access to secure NFC card-reading technology for small shops, empowering them with affordable devices for comprehensive payment acceptance, including credit or debit cards and UPI. Customers can simply tap a card or scan a QR code to make payments. With an improved and longer-lasting battery life of up to 10 days, merchants can benefit from the Paytm NFC Card Soundbox without frequent charging. In addition to its core features of instant audio confirmation and a display screen for transaction amounts, this innovation helps merchants streamline their

day-to-day transactions, making their business operations more efficient and cost-effective. Paytm spokesperson said, "We are committed to help India's small merchants by providing them with the latest technology to accept all types of payments at an affordable price. Today's launch of the 'NFC Card Soundbox' marks the next chapter in the innovation of Paytm Soundbox, India's most loved and successful payment device. With the Paytm NFC Card Soundbox, merchants can seamlessly receive mobile payments from any UPI app and accept NFC-based debit and credit cards, all through a single device.

This makes the Paytm NFC Card Soundbox the ultimate offering for offline merchants across the country." Paytm pioneered the Soundbox, an innovative first-of-its-kind product, which has gained widespread popularity among offline stores, offering unparalleled convenience for merchant partners. Supporting notifications in 11 languages—English, Hindi, Gujarati, Bangla, Odia, Marathi, Punjabi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, and Kannada—and featuring a range of device models, the Paytm Soundbox is designed to meet the diverse needs of offline merchants across the country.

Deputy Chief Minister of Maha, Devendra Fadnavis & Ajit Pawar will inaugurate Karyasamrat Free Mega Health Camp



Pune (Voice news service)-The Karyasamrat Free Mega Health Camp's third phase will be inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis & Ajit Pawar. The camp is organized by the Someshwar Foundation on the birth anniversary of the late Karyasamrat MLA Vinayak Nimhan. The inauguration ceremony will take place on Sunday, 4th August 2024 at 9 am at Agriculture Ground, Sinchan-nagar, Pune and the leaders of all parties will be present on the occasion.

Minister Dr. Tanaji Sawant, Deputy Leader of Shivsena Sachin Ahir, MP Dr. Amol Kolhe, and all the dignitaries from Pune will be present on the occasion. Mega Health Camp was started on July 22. Health centers have been set up at 36 places from Shivajinagar to Pashan, Someshwarwadi. It includes pre-examination, primary treatment, ECG, blood-urine test, sonography, X-ray, 2D echo, stress test, etc. There is a spontaneous response from the citizens & examination will be done from 9 am to 4 pm in the third phase. From 5th August to 5th October 2024, the surgery will be done. Dr. Tatyarao Lahane, Dr. Wakankar, Dr. Gautam Bhanjali, Dr. Ramakant Deshpande, Dr. Vikas Mahatme, Dr. K. H. Sancheti, Dr. Yashraj Patil, Dr. Ajay Chandawale, Dr. Jagannath Dixit, Dr. Sanjaykumar Tambe, Dr. Amit Maydeo, Dr. Ajay Chaurasia, and other experts will examine and treat the patients, Sunny Nimhan mentioned.

Hand surgery is proving to be a boon for a pain-free life



Pune: Recently, the three-day national symposium on hand surgery was held in Pune under the able guidance of noted hand surgeon, Dr. Pankaj Jindal.

of injured hands. Topics also included congenital hand deformities, especially thumb reconstruction in children, paralyzed hands, tingling sensations, spastic hands, amputated fingers, and correcting hand contractures caused by burns and injuries. Additionally, managing hand pain from various causes, such as arthritis, was covered. Dr. Pankaj Jindal said, "Deformities of the hand, burns and scalds, congenital anomalies, disabilities in children's hands, paralysis of the hand, and fused fingers cause physical and social suffering in life. Overcoming such physical deformities and leading a pain-free life is made possible by hand surgery. The main aim of this symposium was to discuss treatment methods that address the shortcomings in the field of hand surgery and provide relief to patients from all kinds of problems so that emerging surgeons can learn these techniques."

The symposium was organized by Hand Surgery India and supported by the Indian Orthopaedic Association. Delegates came from as far as Kashmir and Assam, highlighting the importance of this event. On the first day, discussions focused on hand injuries and their management. Later, the focus shifted to managing hand pain to improve patients' quality of life. The symposium covered a comprehensive range of topics related to hand surgery, featuring intense discussions on 80 topics over three days. Dr. Jindal addressed participants' questions, emphasizing achieving the best results and eliminating complications. This was followed by discussions on the reconstruction and rehabilitation

Acquire new technology and always be updated: CA Kabra



Pune: As time changes, there are changes in new rules, technology, work methods, and other things. Change is a continuous process, and we have to acquire the changes and technology to keep us updated, as advised by CA Durgesh Kabra, Central Council Member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). CA Durgesh Kabra was speaking at the felicitation ceremony of CA exam rank holders organized by the Vsmart Academy, Pune. During the ceremony held at the Vivekananda Auditorium of MIT in Kothrud, Vsmart Academy's founder CA Vishal Bhattad, Co-Founder Rajesh Rakesh, along with CA Ujjwal Bhattad, CA Jay Chawla, CA Ravi Taori, and others were present. CA Durgesh Kabra said, "The ICAI uses advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and ChatGPT. We called it AI-ICAI and CA-GPT. These new initiatives are benefiting students and chartered accountants. CA results, membership, and oth-

er processes have become more streamlined. Success in the challenging Chartered Accountant exams can be achieved through planned study, regular practice, self-study, and keeping oneself updated with changing things. This ceremony, honoring successful chartered accountants, is an inspiration for students aspiring to become CAs." CA Vishal Bhattad added that this felicitation ceremony is important for honoring the students who have succeeded in the CA exams and encouraging those who aspire to become CAs. Rank holders give them the pathway to success and motivate them. I am sure this will help upcoming students to succeed in this exam. Today, we honored more than 80 rank holders. To crack competitive exams like CA we have to work hard, do self-preparation, and update ourselves with new things. consistent and concentrated study is more important than how many hours you studied, he added. CA Amol Jain & Snehal Taori coordinated the program.

Nexus Westend Mall Celebrated International Tiger Day with 'Westend Tiger Trail' Event



Pune (Voice news service)- Nexus Westend Mall proudly hosted its annual 'Westend Tiger Trail' event, celebrating International Tiger Day in partnership with Journeys Explore. This flagship event, which started in 2017, has become a cornerstone of the mall's CSR initiatives

focused on tiger conservation and wildlife photography. This year's event saw 125 participants competing across three adult categories: Tiger Portraits, Tigers in Habitat, and Tigers in Action, along with a junior category for participants under 18. The celebration included a



stunning photography exhibition, a 'Save the Tiger' drawing competition for school children, and a quiz for mall visitors. The event concluded with an awards ceremony judged by renowned wildlife photographers Shivang Mehta, Rahul Sachdev, Sudhir Shivaram, and Sushil Chikane. Nexus West-

end Mall's commitment to wildlife conservation continues to inspire and engage the community, making this year's 'Westend Tiger Trail' a memorable and impactful celebration.



Dazzle with Diamonds: SGL Labs' 14th Diamonds & Jewellery Educational Event organised in Pune

Pune (Voice news service)- SGL Labs, a British diamond certification and authentication laboratory network, proudly announces its 14th "Dazzle with Diamonds" event, held at the prestigious Hyatt Pune. This annual event aims to educate and celebrate the retail sales teams, the essential backbone of the \$85 billion gems and jewellery industry.



The Event: "Dazzle with Diamonds" is more than just a celebration; it is an educational initiative that recognizes the vital role of retail sales teams in the industry. Jigar Vora, Director of Business Development at SGL Labs, emphasized, "It is because of the dedication and expertise of the retail sales staff that the gems and jewellery industry has grown to an \$85 billion market. It is crucial to continuously educate them and celebrate their success."

Women's Leadership in the Male-Dominated Gems and Jewellery Industry: This session highlighted the achievements of prominent female leaders who are industry directors, showcasing their contributions and inspiring future generations. **A Decade of Transformation: Conventional Business to Gen Z Innovations:** This discussion explored how millennials and Gen Z are revolutionizing the industry with their knowledge and creativity, blending traditional

practices with modern innovations. In this panel discussion prominent participants Neha Lagu (Lagu Bandhu Motiwale), Shaneika Rathod (Rathod Jewellers), Sheetal Ranka (Ranka Jewellers), Jigar Vora (SGL Labs), Anup Lunani (Solitoria), Vastupal Ranka (Ranka Jewellers) and Tanay Rathod (Rathod Jewellers) were present.

The Importance of Certification: Mr. Jigar Vora remarked on the significance of certification in today's market. "As the industry evolves, the role of certification becomes even more critical. It ensures the authenticity and quality of both natural and lab-grown jewellery, providing consumers with confidence in their purchases. At SGL, we remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of certification, adapting to the changing landscape while upholding our principles of integrity and excellence."

Z6III Revolutionizes Imaging with the introduction of World's First Partially-Stacked Sensor in Pune

Pune (Voice news service)- Nikon India Private Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Nikon Corporation, introduced the highly anticipated Z6III at Novotel Hotel in Pune, today. Nikon India reinforces its commitment to full-frame mirrorless camera portfolio that is set to redefine the art of videography as well as photography. Inheriting features from the Z9 and Z8 models like in-camera RAW and N-Log videos and EXPEED 7 processor delivering high-performance and industry leading specifications. Z6III is equipped with world's first-ever partially-stacked CMOS sensor and superior Auto Focus capability for an exceptional performance and is ready to outperform.

India Pvt. Ltd. said "We are thrilled to introduce the Z6III, a high-performance full-frame mid-segment camera that inherits the spirit of innovation from our esteemed Z8 and Z9 models. With its exceptional features and unrivaled performance, the Z6III is ready to redefine the videography and photography realm for professionals and enthusiasts. This compact sized professional camera features the world's first-ever partially stacked sensor, making it one of the best inventions in imaging technology. Additionally, we have introduced the industry's first brightest Electronic View Finder (EVF) with a staggering resolution of 5.7M. The camera also offers superior video resolutions of up to 6K/60p, Full HD 240p, along with in-built N-Log and N-RAW support for high-quality video

production. The new Nikon Z6III will become an integral tool for the creator community with its autofocus precision and the ability to freeze fleeting moments with blazing-fast 120fps Pre-Release Capture and an impressive 20fps continuous shooting rate." The participants who attended the event got hands-on experience with the new Nikon Z6III. This event gave them the opportunity to further explore the features of the product and try the product while focussing on Live Experience Zones depicting Wedding, Fashion and Action genres present during the event. The Nikon Z6III empowers you to capture fleeting moments with precision and clarity, thanks to the groundbreaking lightning-fast EXPEED 7 processor performance and func-



tionality from Nikon's top-tier models, the Z6III boasts of superior performance in low-light conditions and backlit scenes. It can detect up to 9 subject types and not only offers improved autofocus performance but also takes AF accuracy up a notch than its predecessors. With superior low-light performance and exciting new functions that expand your creative horizons, the Z6III is the perfect partner for photographers and videographers who are ready to push boundaries and tell their stories with stunning visuals.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (FPAI) PUNE BRANCH CELEBRATED 75TH FOUNDATION DAY

Pune: Women should have the right to decide whether they want a child or not. Dr. Sumati Kanetkar's significant contribution lies in consistently striving and advocating for this right on medical, social, economic, and administrative levels, stated senior social worker and Dr. Kanetkar's daughter, Dr. Meena Borate. She further added that Dr. Kanetkar dedicated her life to women's health, the right to deny pregnancy, and awareness. Dr. Borate was speaking at an event organized by the Pune branch of the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) on the occasion of their platinum jubilee year. Adv. Avalokita Mane, the president of the Pune



branch, and Dr. Ulhas Luktuke, a renowned psychiatrist were present on the occasion. Special certificates were awarded to the officials and workers who played a significant role in the organization's journey. To carry forward the work of her mother, Dr. Borate announced a donation of five lakh rupees to the organization. Dr. Meena Borate said, "My mother completed her higher medical ed-

ucation under very adverse conditions. While conducting family planning campaigns at various places, the need for the Pune branch of the Family Planning Association of India was felt. Hence, this Pune branch was started and has been functioning effectively. Throughout her life, my mother thought about the health of uneducated, illiterate, and poor women. She fought for

the right of women to deny unwanted pregnancies. She had a significant role in drafting the central laws and regulations in this regard."

Dr. Ulhas Luktuke said, "The Family Planning Association of India has done important work in conveying to the general public that planning is essential for a happy family life. The organization has worked to dispel many misconceptions people have about family planning." Adv. Avalokita Mane reviewed the work of the Family Planning Association of India. Dr. Vaishali Jadhav presented the national anthem, while Pravin Sonawane conducted the event. Ujjwala Parasnisi gave a vote of thanks.

Suryadatta Education Foundation Receives 'APJ Abdul Kalam Kriyasheel Gaurav Puraskar'



Pune: The 'APJ Abdul Kalam Kriyasheel Gaurav Puraskar' was awarded to the Suryadatta Education Foundation at the 15th All India Stri Sahitya Kala Samelan, organized in association with Swanand Mahila Sansha and the All India Jain Conference Mahila Branch. The Founder President of Suryadatta, Prof. Dr. Sanjay B Chordiya, was felicitated by senior writer Dr Shripal Sabnis. Other organizations honored alongside the Suryadatta Education Foundation included the Deepastambh Manobal Foundation (Jalgaon), Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Natya Parishad Pimpri-Chinchwad Branch, Akhil Bharatiya Shree Vardhaman Jain Swadhyaya Sangh, Jain Vidya Prasarak Mandal (Chinchwad), Gautam Smriti Foundation (Pune), and Nakshatra's Dentakavyamanch. The event, chaired by

veteran writer Neelam Mangave, was held at G. D. Madgulkar Sabhagraha in Nigdi. Prof Dr Sanjay B Chordiya expressed his gratitude, saying, "It is memorable that the Suryadatta Education Foundation received an award named after former President APJ Abdul Kalam. As a tribute to Kalam's remarkable work, an auditorium in the institute has been named after him. Suryadatta Education Foundation, celebrating its silver jubilee, is inspired by the mission of holistic development and education for all. In education, we have introduced new facilities such as artificial intelligence, cyber security, and physiotherapy. We also engage in various community activities, including the distribution of sewing machines for women, free health camps, and the distribution of bicycles for students in remote areas."

Ather Energy Delivers 501 Units Of Its First Family Scooter, Rizta In Pune



Pune (Voice news service)- Ather Energy, one of India's electric two-wheeler manufacturers, delivered 501 Ather Rizta family scooters at its 'Meet Rizta' event in Pune at Orchid Hotel. This is the largest single day delivery by Ather till date. The event was attended by community members, electric vehicle enthusiasts and new Rizta owners. Attendees had the opportunity to explore Ather's experience zones, which provided them with an immersive experience and in-depth understanding of the brand's advanced technology and design philosophy. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ravneet Singh Phokela, Chief Business Officer, Ather Energy, said, "We are thrilled to deliver 501 Rizta scooters in Pune, an important market for us, and one of the largest two-wheeler markets in India. Over the years we built a strong community with the 450 series. Now, we've introduced Rizta that prioritises comfort, convenience and safety and caters to consumers seeking a scooter that is perfect for family needs. It is built for those who need a practical, reliable and technologically advanced scooter that is ideal for daily use. We are confident that the consumer demand for Rizta will continue to grow in the coming months."

vides the rider with ample leg space. Additionally, the Rizta has several safety features like SkidControl™, as well as features that were previously available on Ather's 450 series of scooters such as FallSafe™, Emergency Stop Signal (ESS), Theft & Tow Detect, and Ping My Scooter. The Rizta is available in two models and three variants: Rizta S and Rizta Z with a 2.9 kWh battery, and a top-end model Rizta Z with a 3.7 kWh battery. The 2.9 kWh variants are expected to have a range of 123 km, while the 3.7 kWh variant will offer a range of 159 km.

Ather Energy, as an electric scooter manufacturer, is also committed to expanding charging infrastructure as a crucial component of the EV ecosystem, to ensure a seamless and hassle-free experience for riders. Its network of fast-charging stations for two-wheelers, known as the Ather Grid, provides access to 1900 fast-charging points across the country. The company currently has 200 Experience Centers across the country, where customers can test ride and purchase Ather scooters. Ather has 2 manufacturing plants in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, one each for vehicle assembly and battery manufacturing and an upcoming third manufacturing facility in Bidkin, AURIC, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra.

The Ather Rizta S with 2.9 kWh will be priced at INR 1,10,156 (ex-showroom Pune). The Ather Rizta Z with 2.9 kWh and Rizta with 3.7 kWh will be available at INR 1,25,156 and INR 1,45,157 (ex-showroom Pune).

Transport Corporation of India Ltd

Pune: Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), India's leading integrated supply chain and logistics solutions provider, today announced its financial results for the first quarter ended June 30, 2024. **Financial Highlights for Q1/FY2025:** - Revenue: TCI reported a standalone revenue of ₹ Mn 9844, marking a growth of 10.9% compared to ₹ Mn 8875 in the same period last year. **EBITDA:** The company's Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (EBITDA) stood at ₹ Mn 1452, a 16.7% increase from ₹ Mn 1244 in Q1/FY2025. **Profit After Tax (PAT):** PAT rose by 26.3% to ₹ Mn 1052, compared to ₹ Mn 833 in the

corresponding quarter of the previous year. Mr. Vineet Agarwal, Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd. said, "We have delivered a robust performance in the first quarter of FY2025. All our product segments serving various industry verticals have grown, especially coastal shipping, rail multimodal solutions, 3PL/warehousing and cold chain logistics. Our focus remains on providing value added and technologically advanced customized offerings to our customers. TCI continues to innovate and develop sustainable solutions through investments in rail and coastal multimodal assets & networks."

WhatsApp's privacy campaign is an ode to the resilience of people living away from home

Pune (Voice news service):- WhatsApp today launched a privacy campaign focused on the importance of secure communication, demonstrating how WhatsApp's multiple layers of protection offer people more control and privacy over their conversations while engaging with friends, family and now businesses too. The national campaign will run in Maharashtra and 7 other states across OOH, Print, Digital and Cinemas.

The campaign shows how WhatsApp creates a safe space for people living away from home, to have their most private conversations with their loved ones while building a new community and adjusting to a new life, underscoring WhatsApp's commitment to user-privacy through built-in layers of privacy and security features added over the years.

Conceptualized by BBDO India and directed by notable Indian film director, Shimit Amin, the ad film follows the journey of a young man who moves to a new city to pursue his passion for becoming a professional chef. Capturing some heartwarming and challenging moments of him adapting to a new culture, learning a new language,

and finding his feet in a new work environment, we see how WhatsApp provides him a safe space to be his most authentic and confident self, even in his most vulnerable moments. You can see the full video here: <https://youtu.be/GNxr-veAgGI?si=YNQfa-4Lu1n4m1KqT>

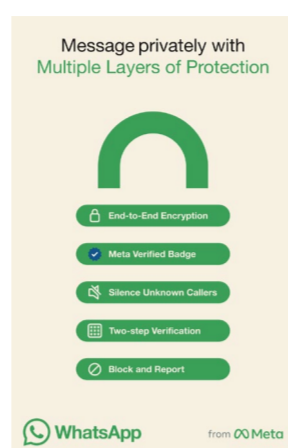
While end-to-end encryption is the foundation of what keeps calls and messages secure on WhatsApp, the film educates users on privacy features like Block and Report, Two-step verification and Meta Verified that help strengthen the security of your conversations. A verified badge on a business profile helps customers identify trusted businesses on WhatsApp and empowers them to know that they're chatting with the right business.

Vyom Prashant, Director, Consumer Marketing at Meta, said, "Over the years we have added layers of security and protection with innovative features that empower users to have their most private conversations on WhatsApp, including talking to businesses they choose to. We're proud to introduce this campaign that shows the vital role that private and secure messaging plays in people's lives and how WhatsApp can

be a safe space for people to say more and be more, especially when they're living away from their home and loved ones."

As part of the campaign, WhatsApp is also releasing a series of dedicated product films to drive user awareness on safety tools and features that equip people with the necessary safeguards to help protect them from online scams and frauds. Key safety features that can help users stay safe from scams include: Two-step verification to add an extra layer of security to your account; WhatsApp allows users to add an extra layer of security to their account by enabling the Two-Step Verification feature, which requires a six-digit PIN when resetting and verifying your WhatsApp account. This is helpful in case a SIM card gets stolen or if the phone is compromised.

Block and report accounts that are suspicious: WhatsApp is a private and safe space for people to communicate with their loved ones and people who have your phone number. However, at times when users receive problematic messages from unknown numbers, some of which may include suspicious links, request access to personal information,



among others WhatsApp provides a simple way for users to 'block and report' the account to WhatsApp. If you receive a message from an unknown sender, WhatsApp provides users the option to block them, with additional details such as groups in common, along with safety tools if you need to take action.

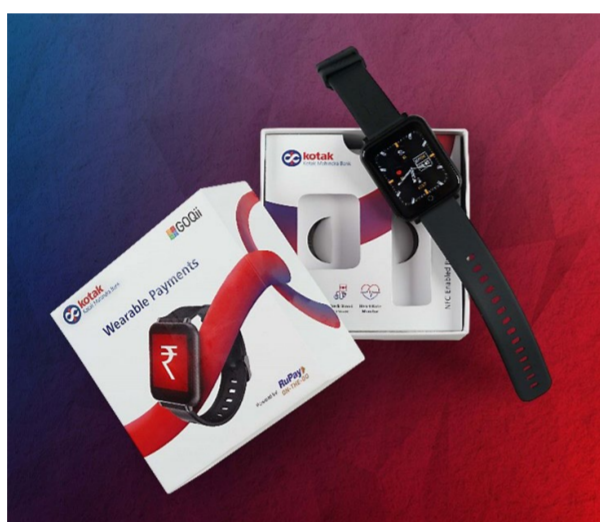
Silence unknown callers: Designed to give you more privacy and control of your incoming calls, it helps to automatically screen out spam calls, and calls from unknown people for increased protection. These calls will not ring on your phone, but will be visible in your call list, in case it turns out to be someone important.

Kotak - GOQii Smart Vital Plus smartwatch launched

Pune (Voice news service):- Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd ("KMBL" / "Kotak") has teamed up with GOQii to launch the Kotak - GOQii Smart Vital Plus smartwatch, revolutionizing the way customers make payments. Priced at INR 3499, this innovative wearable device combines contactless payments with health monitoring features. Powered by RuPay On-The-Go, the smartwatch enables seamless transactions up to INR 5000 without requiring a PIN.

Launching the product, Rohit Bhasin, Head - Retail Liabilities Product & Chief Marketing Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "With the rise of digital payments, customers seek fast and cashless payments for frequent, low-value transactions. The Kotak - GOQii Smart Vital Plus smartwatch eliminates the need for cash, cards, or smartphones, enabling secure and seamless banking on the go."

The Kotak - GOQii Smart Vital Plus allows users



to track blood pressure, body temperature, and SpO2 levels directly from their wrist. Additionally, its user-friendly interface ensures easy access to payments. Customers can seamlessly sign in with their Kotak accounts and enable contactless payments on the device, which provides the same level of safety and security as traditional contactless cards and mobile devices.

Vishal Gondal, Founder & CEO, GOQii, said, "Health is wealth is a timeless adage. At GOQii, we have always believed in the

importance of preventive healthcare and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Partnering with Kotak Mahindra Bank to offer customers contactless payments integrated with GOQii's advanced health ecosystem is a step towards making this a reality.

This integration is crucial, as it enhances convenience, promotes health and safety, ensures secure transactions, and aligns with the growing trend of technological integration in daily life. This functionality supports

the vision of a seamless, healthy, and efficient lifestyle, which is particularly crucial in today's fast-paced world."

Rajeeth Pillai, Chief Relationship Management, NPCI said, "We are happy with the launch of Smart Vital Plus smartwatch for contactless payments on NPCI's innovative RuPay On-The-Go range. This collaboration empowers users to carry out their day-to-day transactions conveniently and securely while on-the-go. Innovative form factors for payment solutions are redefining the payments ecosystem, offering an enhanced user experience, and making transactions swift and seamless. With the acceptance infrastructure growing rapidly, the demand for contactless payment solutions is poised to rise with tech-savvy consumers."

Kotak Bank customers can purchase the smartwatch through the bank's mobile app or website. Non-Kotak customers will need to open a Kotak account to avail this facility.

Indians lost over 15 billion hours on hold to customer service in 2023, resulting in \$55 billion in economic loss output

Pune (Voice news service):- Indians spent more than 15 billion hours on hold to customer service, according to new research from ServiceNow, the AI platform for business transformation. The 'Customer Experience Intelligence Report 2024' revealed that the average person spent more than one day each year on hold to address an issue or complaint (30.7 hours), equivalent to an economic loss of \$55 billion* (USD), annually. (Refer to notes for calculation at the end of the release)

4500+ Indians, aged 18 and above took part in the study, conducted in collaboration with Lonergan Research to understand the state of customer service over the past year.

More than 50 percent of survey respondents believe that their time waiting on hold has increased from the past year. Slow service solutions mean the average employee is spending 3.9 days to resolve each customer issue and 66 percent of respondents said they would consider switching to another company if their issue is not resolved within three working days.

"Indian businesses are at risk of losing two-thirds of their customer base in 2024 due to slow service solutions," said Sumeet Mathur, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, ServiceNow India

Technology & Business Center. "Consumers have spoken - three days is the maximum time they will wait for a solution before taking their business elsewhere. Businesses that can't meet that standard must act, installing AI powered self-service options available at the consumers' fingertips."

How may AI help you? Nearly two-thirds (62%) of respondents have resolved more issues through self-service options in 2023, compared to the previous year. Over half of Indians say that their trust in chatbots (55%) and self-help guides (56%) has also increased. The study shows a notable surge in trust towards AI amongst Indians, with a remarkable two-thirds (66%), expressing confidence in GenAI to deliver good customer service, nearly 10% higher than trust in traditional in-person customer support, signaling an emerging shift in preferences, particularly among the younger population.

"Consumer expectations from AI are straightforward - effectiveness in issue resolution, ease of use, quick response times, and accurate query comprehension. This shift marks the era of Industry 4.0, transitioning from human-led intervention to exploring the diverse capabilities that AI has to offer.

In an era where customer

retention is increasingly challenging, it is time for enterprises to put AI to work and drive growth, improve efficiency, and deliver superior customer experiences in a competitive business landscape," added Sumeet Mathur.

ServiceNow is helping Indian enterprises and government agencies put AI to work with Now Assist. AI helps reduce the workload on human agents, allowing them to focus on more complex and value-added interactions. Furthermore, by analyzing historical customer data, AI can anticipate individual preferences, needs, and behaviors, crafting personalized interactions that resonate with the client. This targeted approach fosters a sense of understanding and value among customers, enhancing their connection with the brand and elevating their overall experience.

India On Hold, As Customer Services Fails to Deliver The study highlights that structural problems are pushing wait times further with 48 percent of Indians identify inefficient internal communication as a major issue for customer service delays, while 47 percent say customer service staff lack decision-making power. 44 percent Indians believe lack of ownership and responsibility between different departments, followed by 44

percent believe - poor record keeping from the previous service and 41 percent think issues with internal systems are some of the main reasons for delay in resolving their issues which can be easily fixed with strategic interventions.

Transparency, Speed & Empathy are Key Groundbreakers Close to 60 percent of Indians would like to see customer service teams improve their speed of resolution while half would like to see a reduction in the time spent on hold. Close to half (48 percent) would like to see better customer experience in their applications.

Around 2 in 5 Indians (40 percent) would like increased opening hours or response times - Improving their use of self-help guides and resources (40 percent) - Improving their use of chat bots (39 percent).

"Indian enterprise now faces a choice: allow mediocre experiences to continue eroding customer loyalty or rethink the way they design and deliver those experiences. It is abundantly clear, that customers are willing to use AI led chatbots or self-help guides for faster resolution. Businesses should embrace AI to help create meaningful experiences and reduce the burden on the customer service agents" concludes said Sumeet Mathur.

HERO MOTOCORP EXPANDS ITS GLOBAL PRESENCE

Pune (Voice news service):- Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, has commenced operations in the Philippines. This strategic expansion marks a significant milestone in the company's efforts to strengthen its global presence.

Terraforma Motors Corporation (TMC), a part of the Columbian Group of Companies, one of the leading and most experienced automotive groups in the Philippines, will serve as the exclusive assembler and distributor of Hero MotoCorp products & services. The partnership between the two companies was announced in October 2022.

Niranjan Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Hero MotoCorp said, "The commencement of operations in the Philippines will bolster our overall global presence. Hero MotoCorp, with its extensive and innovative



product portfolio, is committed to delivering superior mobility solutions and exceptional after-sales services ensuring a delightful ownership experience. Partnering with Terraforma Motors Corporation (TMC), a distinguished entity within the Columbian Group, we are poised to swiftly establish and expand our presence in this vital market."

Bienvenido Sanvictores Santos, Chairman, Terraforma Motors Corporation, said, "We are delighted to partner with Hero MotoCorp, one of the leading automotive companies in

the world. Hero's products are renowned for their technology and reliability, and we are confident that customers in the Philippines will love these motorcycles and scooters. Combining Hero MotoCorp's global expertise with our local knowledge, we intend to make a significant impact in the market."

A state-of-the-art assembly unit and parts warehouse has been set-up at Terraforma Motors Corporation in Laguna, Philippines. Spanning over 6,000 sq. mtrs, the facility boasts an annual capacity

of over 150,000 units. This new assembly facility will produce Hero MotoCorp's best-selling and globally acclaimed range of motorcycles, including the Xpulse 200 4V, Hunk 160R 4V, and the Xoom 110 scooter.

The company also commenced its retail operations today offering the Xpulse 200 4V at an attractive on-road price of PHP 140,000, the Hunk 160R 4V at PHP 99,900, and the Xoom 110 at PHP 69,900. Each product comes with a warranty of 2 years or 24,000 kilometers.

The partners have established a comprehensive retail network (sales, service, spares) with over 350 customer touch-points, and will plan to rapidly expand this network by the end of the year.

Hero MotoCorp is currently present in 48 countries with tech centres in India and Germany, and manufacturing facilities in India, Colombia, and Bangladesh.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Continues to Steer Growth with Best Ever Sales of 31,656 Units in July 2024

Pune (Voice news service):- For the second consecutive month, Toyota Kirloskar Motor has outperformed its sales achievement by registering best-ever monthly wholesale of 31,656 units in July 2024.

While domestic sales accounted for 29,533 units, exports totalled to 2,123 units during the month. This marks a remarkable growth of 44% compared to July 2023, when 21,911 units were sold. In the previous month of June 2024, TKM sold 27,474 units. In the first seven months of CY 2024, TKM sold 1,81,906 units, marking a remarkable 46% increase compared to the same period in CY 2023, which recorded sales of 1,24,282 units.

Commenting on the strong performance, Mr. Sabari Manohar - Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Busi-

ness, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "We are thrilled to announce another key milestone with our highest-ever sales performance for July 2024. Demand for all our models remains at an all-time high, especially in the SUV and MPV segments. Our formidable presence in these categories, with models like the Innova Crysta, Innova Hycross, Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Rumion, Taisor, Fortuner, Legender, Hilux, and the LC 300, offers robust choices to customers. In addition, our diverse lineup, including the Glanza, Camry Hybrid, and Vellfire, is strategically designed to cater to the evolving and varied needs of our customers, reflecting our commitment to delivering vehicles that align with their preferences and lifestyles.

Our operational enhancement strategy, including the addition of a third shift, is supporting

strong demand. For certain models, especially in the case of Urban Cruiser Hyryder, a streamlined supply situation has also led to a reduction in waiting periods. Moreover, there is an increasing understanding and appreciation for newer and greener technologies among customers. Our commitment to sustainability, safety, and advanced technology remains at the forefront of our efforts to meet and exceed customer expectations. We are also constantly innovating to offer new experiences to our valued customers. We have expanded our car detailing business, "T GLOSS," to the Toyota Used Car Outlet (TUCCO). Customers can now enjoy quality car care solutions delivered in a highly professional manner, ensuring a delightful ownership experience even for used cars.

We are deeply grateful for the trust and loyalty of our customers and remain committed to delivering high-quality vehicles that meet their diverse needs.

This success underscores our dedication to providing exceptional products and services, and we look forward to continuing this positive momentum in the coming months."

In a significant corporate milestone, TKM yesterday signed a MOU with the Government of Maharashtra to explore the potential of setting up of a Green Field Manufacturing Facility that will further strengthen the company's focus on advanced green technologies. In addition, work on the third plant in Bidadi near Bangalore which was announced in 2023, at an investment of Rs. 3,300 crores has already begun with worked expected to complete in 2026.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Reopens Booking for Innova Hycross ZX & ZX (O) Grades

Pune (Voice news service):- Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the re-opening of bookings for the Innova Hycross ZX & ZX (O) models, effective 1st August 2024. Since its launch (Nov 2022), the Innova Hycross has received overwhelming customer response, appreciated for its proportions & poise of an SUV with the spaciousness of an MPV. The versatile Innova Hycross, available in both self-charging strong hybrid electric variant [SHEV] as well as gasoline variant, is celebrated for its glamor quotient, advanced technology, comfort, safety features and a thrill to drive.

Owing to high demand situation, the bookings for the top end grades were put on hold temporarily. During this period, bookings for other grades of the Innova Hycross, both hybrid and gasoline, continued unabated. With the streamlining and enhanced supply, the waiting period has been reduced & the bookings of Innova Hycross top end grades has commenced.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Sabari

Manohar - Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business - Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We are thrilled to announce the re-opening of booking for top-end grades of the Innova Hycross, ZX and ZX (O), effective August 1st, 2024. This reflects our commitment to provide access to our varied product choices to cater to the customer desires. The Innova Hycross has become a highly sought-after model, appreciated for its unmatched comfort and convenience. With its advanced technology, strong hybrid electric system, and robust design, the Innova Hycross has set new benchmarks in the market. We are truly humbled by the strong acceptance and confidence entrusted by our customers on this product.

We deeply appreciate the patience of our valued customers during the temporary halt period and regret any inconvenience. We are confident that the re-opening of the bookings of the Innova Hycross top-end grades will further enrich our customers' driving experiences and fulfil

their mobility aspirations."

Based on Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), the Innova Hycross celebrates Toyota's globally recognized Quality, Durability and Reliability and reflects the brand legacy. It is powered by a 5th Generation Self-Charging Strong Hybrid Electric System, featuring a TNGA 2.0-litre 4-cylinder gasoline engine and a monocoque frame with an e-drive sequential shift, delivering a maximum power output of 137 kW (186 PS). This provides rapid acceleration and best-in-segment fuel economy that makes the Innova Hycross a wise choice for a greener tomorrow.

Designed for family needs, the feature-laden Innova Hy-

cross is a vehicle for every occasion, offering glamor, toughness, comfort, safety, and advanced technology. Drawing inspiration from Toyota's rich global SUV heritage, the Innova Hycross boasts a muscular and tough design with ample space, providing flexible and comfortable seating for all. This versatile vehicle is perfect for families wanting a car that can handle rough roads while delivering a seamless, fatigue-free drive.

We are doing our best to ensure a seamless booking experience and timely delivery. Customers can make their bookings online on www.toyotaabharat.com or also visit their nearest Toyota dealership.



Bridgestone India launches Industry first "100km Tyre Service" in India

Pune (Voice news service):- Bridgestone India, today announced the launch of a complimentary tyre refilling and maintenance service for its Turanza 6i tyres. This is the first of its kind service in the Indian tyre industry and showcases Bridgestone's commitment to provide superior product experience for Indian consumers. Bridgestone currently offers this service in Japan and is now bringing this special experience to India, underscoring the expertise in creating a superior experience through their tyres.

The 100 Km check-up is a complimentary service provided to customers after the initial fitment of Bridgestone

Turanza 6i tyres. This service is designed to ensure optimal tyre performance, longevity and the premium comfort ride experience that Turanza 6i promises.

This service will be launched in Pune starting from August 1st, 2024 with limited dealers, and thereafter extend to other dealers and markets. Bridgestone is also offering an equipment upgrade to these dealers to ensure they are fully equipped to provide this innovative service to the consumers. Customers will be reminded through a text message about availing this service. "We are committed towards giving our customers a superior driving experi-

ence and the introduction of this complimentary 100 Km check-up service for our Turanza 6i customers is a step in this direction. This is an industry first of its kind service and reinforces our commitment to deliver the highest level of customer satisfaction and tyre performance. This service will not only enhance the overall driving experience but also extend the life of the tyres thereby giving higher value to our customers. I am sure that the Pune initiative will be a resounding success. We will be extending this initiative to other markets in a phased manner," said Mr. Rajarshi Moitra, Chief Commercial Officer, Bridgestone India.

The new 100 kilometers check-up service is designed to ensure proper tyre fitment, alignment, balancing, and reduce vibration. It includes an air pressure recheck, torque adjustment and enhance overall tyre performance after the tyres have settled during the first hundred kilometers of driving. This initiative underscores Bridgestone's dedication to global best practices, aligning with the commitment to customer satisfaction and long-term tyre health.

Bridgestone has already set a benchmark with similar services in Japan and is now bringing this advanced customer service initiative to India