



## Kotak Mahindra Bank Announces

### Key Leadership Appointments

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the appointments of Vyomesh Kapasi as the new Head of Products - Consumer Bank at Kotak Mahindra Bank and Shahrukh Todiwala as the new MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited (KMPL). Announcing the changes, Ashok Vaswani, MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said, "These appointments underscore the deep bench strength at Kotak and our commitment to fostering leadership talent. Vyomesh's extensive experience and proven track record in driving growth and innovation will be invaluable as we continue to enhance our consumer products. Shahrukh's deep understanding of the vehicle financing market will en-

sure that KMPL continues to thrive and deliver exceptional value to our clients and stakeholders." Vyomesh joins Kotak Mahindra Bank from KMPL, where he served as the MD & CEO and led the company to new heights. With over three decades of experience in the financial sector, Vyomesh brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role. Shahrukh Todiwala takes over from Vyomesh Kapasi as the new MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited. Shahrukh has been with KMPL since 1995, and currently heads Wholesale and Retail vehicle finance businesses at KMPL. He has played a key role in the company's strategic initiatives and has a deep understanding of the vehicle financing market.

## Hiranandani-Krisala Developers Joint Development Unveils 105-Acre Integrated Township in Hinjewadi, Pune

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Niranjani Hiranandani Group announces its much-awaited foray into Pune real estate market by inking its first ever joint development deal of 105 acres with renowned Krisala developers. The project is located at North Hinjewadi, and will be developed under Integrated township policy, comprising of residential, commercial and retail development. The joint development currently launches Phase I development spanned across 30 acres of land with minimum potential of delivering 3 million square feet of real estate spaces. As part of a joint development deal, the investment in phase 1 development is estimated at approximately Rs 500 crore, with a projected turnover pegged at approximately Rs 2100 crore. The proposed development comprises of apartments, villa plots, branded residences, and recreational amenities to enhance homebuyers holistic living experience. This strategic joint development aims to leverage the strong local expertise of Kri-



sala Developers and the extensive brand experience of the Hiranandani Group. Both organizations are committed to a seamless integration of vision and expertise, covering every aspect from land development and approvals to execution. According to Dr Niranjani Hiranandani, Chairman, Hiranandani Group, "Mega infrastructure projects are establishing crucial last-mile connectivity between Mumbai and Pune, invigorating the dynamic MMR and Pune real estate markets. This connectivity directly addresses the aspirational living demands of migrating talent. Pune's real estate sector is experienc-

ing robust growth, propelled by its booming IT hubs, outstanding connectivity, and an influx of skilled professionals. The seamless connection between these two major business cities has opened unprecedented opportunities for real estate development. He additionally stated, "The Indian real estate landscape is evolving rapidly, and it's clear that innovation and strategic collaboration are essential to achieving exponential growth." Sharing his excitement Mr Aakash Agarwal, Managing Director of Krisala Developers said, "Designed as a self-sustained ecosystem that emphasizes liveability, community well-being,

and environmental consciousness, this township aims to offer a home for everyone. The development will cater to first-time homebuyers, second home seekers, investors, and NRIs, ensuring inclusivity and comfort for all demographics. This project differentiates itself through a steadfast commitment to sustainability and scientifically driven urban planning. Our collaborations with renowned energy and resource institutes aim to maintain an air quality index (AQI) of 40, ensuring a healthier living environment for residents." With its strategic locale, thoughtfully designed spaces, and unparalleled amenities, the township is poised to set a new benchmark for integrated residential real estate developments in Pune, promising a future where sustainability and luxury coexist seamlessly. Corroborated partnerships like this joint venture between the Hiranandani Group and Krisala Developers enable both organizations to capitalize on the flourishing opportunities in today's bullish real estate market.

## Seva Setu: Building bridges to

### Serve Destitute Women in Pune

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Guided by its generational values of Seva Bhav, Tarachand Ramnath Seva Trust is extending its support to Maher Ashram with a generous grant of ₹2 crores. This grant will be utilised by Maher towards providing a safe home for destitute and mentally challenged women in Wagholi, Pune the shelter named Maher - Tarachand Ramnath Vatsalyadham, will address the urgent need for secure premises and rehabilitation facilities for women who are abandoned, homeless, or struggling with mental health conditions. According to the 2011 Census, Pune has over 20,000 homeless people. A pilot study by the Centre for Youth Development and Activities (CYDA) found that 34% of homeless surveyed adults were women. Applying this percentage, an estimated 6,800 homeless women live in Pune. Without proper shelter, these women are left vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and severe health risks. Existing shelters are often inadequate, overcrowded, or inaccessible, further wors-

ening their condition. In response to this crisis, Sister Lucy Kurien founded Maher Ashram in 1997 has 4000 sheltered women and children in 70 homes over 70 homes in 7 states in India and has been serving to these cause and providing safe haven to women, children and mentally challenged adults. Sister Lucy's efforts have been recognized by Jammal Bajaj Award, in 2021, Nari Shakti Award, 2016 and many more. Recognizing the critical need to expand these efforts, Tarachand Ramnath Seva Trust has stepped forward with a ₹2 crore infrastructural grant. The well-equipped home Maher-Tarachand Ramnath Vatsalyadham, will provide a safe and nurturing environment for destitute women. To commemorate this partnership, a special MoU signing event, Seva Setu (Building Bridges to Serve), was held on Saturday, 15th February 2025, at Aamra, opp City Pride, Kothrud, Pune. The event will bring together dignitaries, social leaders, and supporters of the cause to celebrate this impactful collaboration.

## Amity University Maharashtra Celebrates the Remarkable Achievements of the Graduating Class of 2024

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Amity University, Mumbai, held a memorable convocation ceremony for the Class of 2024 on Tuesday, celebrating the exceptional achievements of 1,505 graduates, 178 medal winners and 32 PhD recipients. The event, held at Shree Shanmukhananda Hall, marked a significant milestone in the students' academic careers, as they were recognized for their excellence in academics, research, and community service. The ceremony also included the presentation of prestigious awards, including the Best All-Round Student Trophies and the 34 Gold, 35 Silver, and 15 Bronze medals. The Shri Bajjit Shastri Award and Dr. K. Ashok Chauhan Scholarship were also presented, recognizing the hard work and dedication of students who excelled academically and contributed to the community. The ceremony began with a warm welcome address by Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) A.W. Santhosh Kumar, followed by a speech from the Chancellor, Dr. Aseem Chauhan, who highlighted the university's dedication to shaping future leaders who are not



only academically proficient but also socially responsible. He also added, "The achievements of our graduates reflect their hard work, determination, and the strong academic foundation they received here at Amity." The convocation was further distinguished by the conferment of honorary degrees by Chancellor, Dr. Aseem Chauhan and Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) A.W. Santhosh Kumar to three outstanding industry leaders who have made significant contributions in their respective fields: Mr. Nand Khemka, Chairman of SUN Group; Mr. Romal Shetty, CEO of Deloitte; Mr. Yann Leroy, Internationally Renowned Architect. Keynote Addresses from Industry Leaders: Mr. Nand Khemka, Chairman of SUN Group, delivered a keynote address that deeply

creatively and make meaningful contributions to society. Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) A.W. Santhosh Kumar expressed immense pride in the achievements of the graduates: "It is a day of immense pride and joy for all of us at Amity University, Mumbai. These graduates are not only equipped with the knowledge needed to succeed in their careers but also the passion to make a lasting impact in the world." The ceremony also celebrated students who have demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial ventures, and volunteer work. These contributions to their holistic development were recognized alongside academic success. Degrees were conferred across multiple disciplines, with students being awarded top honors in their respective fields. Additionally, students were acknowledged for their significant community engagement and leadership on campus. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the university anthem, marking the end of an important chapter for the Class of 2024 as they embark on the next phase of their professional and academic journeys.

## Tata Motors Empowers More Transport's Journey towards Logistics Excellence

**Pune (Voice news service):-** India's household consumption has doubled over the past decade, and is projected to make the country the world's 3rd largest consumer market by 2026. According to industry reports, this is primarily driven by urbanization, a rising middle class, and growing disposable incomes. The rapid expansion of e-commerce and quick commerce is further accelerating this growth, creating an unprecedented demand for robust logistics infrastructure. Commercial vehicles serve as the backbone of this transformation, ensuring the seamless and reliable movement of goods across the nation. Pune, a thriving industrial and commercial hub is also witnessing a rapid growth. Playing a key role in meeting the city's logistics requirements is More Transport, a company that embodies resilience,

vision, and a commitment to excellence. Starting with a single Tata Motors LPT 909 truck, More Transport has grown into a thriving logistics business with a fleet of 125 Tata Motors vehicles. This remarkable journey is a testament to the trust placed in Tata Motors and the entrepreneurial spirit of the company's founder, Mr. Shankar More, who laid a strong foundation for the company's success. The company's ability to evolve and adapt further strengthened further in 2017, when Mr. Shankar More's son, Hrushikesh, joined the business as a second-generation entrepreneur. With a keen understanding of the changing landscape and an innovative approach, Hrushikesh steered a new phase of growth by closely collaborating with Tata Motors to expand the fleet. His vision led to the addition of eight new

Tata trucks in his first year, enabling More Transport to meet the evolving needs of their customers and scale operations effectively. The company became the first in Pune to purchase the trusted LPT 1921 and LPT 2821. Known for their superior fuel efficiency and reliability, these vehicles have empowered More Transport to deliver exceptional logistics services while staying ahead of the curve. Reflecting on the partnership, Mr. Shankar Kundlik More, Owner, More Transport, said, "Tata Motors has been instrumental in shaping our success story. Their deep understanding of our business needs, coupled with solutions that optimize performance and enhance efficiency, has been invaluable. From their reliable solutions that cater to changing requirements to the company's strong after-sales support, Tata Motors has em-

powered us to adapt, grow, and deliver on our promises. We look forward to continuing this partnership and achieving even greater milestones together." Tata Motors has worked closely with both the first and second generations of More Transport's leadership, adapting to changing times to provide solutions that meet evolving industry dynamics and customer needs. The synergy not only underscores Tata Motors' commitment to empowering its customers but also showcases how innovation, trust, and entrepreneurial vision can drive enduring success in a rapidly evolving logistics sector. With its strong operational focus and customer-centric approach, More Transport is well-positioned to set new benchmarks of excellence, ensuring seamless connectivity between manufacturers and consumers.

## While measuring long term impact remains a challenge, 94% of B2B marketers in India see AI driving high ROI: LinkedIn

**Pune (Voice news service):-** The pressure for B2B marketers is intensifying as nearly half of them in India have to justify marketing spend to C-suite executives on a monthly basis, according to new research from LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network and leading B2B advertising platform. With the length of B2B buying cycles getting longer, the majority (89%) of B2B marketers say it's getting harder to measure long-term impact of a campaign. LinkedIn's new "B2B ROI Impact" research, which surveyed over 1,000 B2B marketers in the US, UK, France, and India, highlights the ongoing pressures that marketers face to demonstrate the impact of their work on company revenue. 84% of B2B CMOs in the country say that proving campaign return-on-investment (ROI) has become more important in the past two years. Research shows that there are three key barriers B2B marketers face when demonstrating ROI — lack of standardised industry benchmarks and metrics, particularly for B2B campaigns (42%); difficulty in accurately attributing conversions to specific cam-

paigns (39%), integration issues between different data platforms (39%); and lack of organisational alignment on metrics between sales and marketing (38%). Sachin Sharma, Director, LinkedIn Marketing Solutions, India, says, "As proving ROI remains the core priority for Indian B2B marketers in 2025, their relationship with senior leaders will be in sharper focus. With 9 in 10 already using AI tools to improve campaign returns and measure ROI better, B2B marketers must work with leaders to prioritise 'value metrics over volume metrics'. To do this, they must adopt the right AI tools that can help measure a campaign's impact with greater precision — resulting in real business outcomes." Majority of B2B marketers say value metrics are stronger indicators of campaign success. Although research finds that volume metrics, like Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC), Cost per Engagement (CPE), and Return on Ad Spend (RoAS) are some of the most frequently requested metrics from senior leadership, B2B marketers know that mindsets need to shift. Despite data showing that 46% of senior

leaders in India are focused on RoAS, B2B marketers consider value metrics, like Marketing Qualified Leads (MQLs) and Sales Qualified Leads (SQLs), as stronger indicators of campaign success. Looking ahead into the next year, B2B marketers say that understanding buyer intent — a buyer's likelihood to purchase — will be the biggest challenge in proving campaign effectiveness, signaling the criticality in effectively measuring qualified leads. As a result, over half (53%) of B2B marketers are pivoting to a buyer group marketing strategy to influence purchase decisions and drive conversions, and focusing on Customer Lifetime Value (CLV) in reporting. 96% of B2B marketers believe AI will have a positive impact on measurement. As the buying group continues to evolve and B2B marketers find it harder to reach the right decision-makers and prove campaign effectiveness, more than 9 in 10 B2B marketers in India believe AI will have a positive impact on measurement over the next five years. And, 94% of B2B marketers also agree that they are seeing improved ROI

when using AI to build and optimize campaigns. Research shows they are using AI to enhance audience segmentation and targeting (65%), drive predictive analytics for better lead scoring (61%), personalize content at scale (57%), and optimize ad spend and creative content in real time (55%). When looking to the future, B2B marketers believe that over the next five years, AI will prove to be the most valuable in measuring ad effectiveness (62%); content creation and personalisation (60%); and predictive analytics (53%) Saloni Javeri, Chief Digital & Marketing Officer at L'Oréal India says, "LinkedIn's unique blend of professional networking and content marketing enables L'Oréal to connect with key stakeholders—industry professionals, potential employees, investors, and consumers. Through targeted campaigns like L'Oréal Sense of Purpose, we've strengthened brand awareness, corporate reputation, and engagement within a highly relevant and influential audience. LinkedIn's sophisticated targeting and analytics help us measure impact, optimize campaigns, and maximize ROI."

## Sugatsune introduces Swivel Torque Hinge HG-S for smooth 360-degree rotation

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Sugatsune, a global leader in premium hardware solutions, introduces the Swivel Torque Hinge HG-S, a perfect fusion of sophistication and cutting-edge engineering. The pensive design allows 360-degree rotational movement and resistance. Unlike standard hinges that permit unrestricted swinging of panels, the Swivel Torque Hinge HG-S integrates a specialized mechanism that imparts torque, allowing the lid or panel to maintain a fixed position once opened. The Swivel Torque Hinge HG-S guarantees a unique design that ensures smooth, controlled movement, offering the remarkable capability to stop the lid in place at various angles. Featuring Motion Design Technology, it supports an advanced movement of free stop motion. The product is equipped with a central hole for effortless ca-

ble management. Notably, it has passed a rigorous 20,000 open or close private cycle test, ensuring long-lasting durability and reliability. Sugatsune Swivel Torque Hinge HG-S is used in heavy machinery and industrial equipment to secure access lids and panels at the required angle for maintenance, while also providing precise control over large control panels in manufacturing plants, ensuring stability and easy access. It can be used in machinery, HMI units, or electrical enclosures, the swivel torque hinge allows for precise access while preventing the lid from swinging open or closing unexpectedly. These are used in heavy-duty machines to help lids open smoothly and stay in place at the desired angle during maintenance or operations. Mr. Anil Rana, Managing Director of Sugatsune India, said, "At Sugatsune, we are committed to pushing

the boundaries of innovation and design. The Swivel Torque Hinge HG-S embodies our dedication to creating products that not only offer functional solutions but also enhance the overall user experience., we are setting new standards in versatility and performance for a wide range of industries and applications." The Sugatsune Swivel Torque Hinge HG-S is a game-changer for industries requiring precision and stability. Its ability to offer controlled movement, steady holding power, and versatile applications makes it the perfect solution for demanding environments. Whether in machinery or medical equipment, this innovative hinge sets a new benchmark for performance, ensuring that users can rely on it for both functionality and ease of use. At Sugatsune, we continue to innovate, delivering cutting-edge solutions that elevate industries and enhance everyday experiences.



## Flip, Fry, Grill, and Feast: Acerpure Launches the Chef 2-in-1 Air Fryer for Modern Homes at ₹10,990

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Acerpure India, a division of the global Acer Group, has introduced the Acerpure Chef 2-in-1 Flip Fryer, a sleek and versatile kitchen appliance designed for healthier and more convenient cooking. This all-in-one device seamlessly integrates air frying, grilling, and hot pot functions, making it a must-have for modern kitchens. Available in elegant matte black and matte white, the air fryer not only enhances kitchen aesthetics but also delivers top-tier performance. Equipped with 360° Turbo-

heat Air Fry Technology, it ensures even cooking with up to 80% less oil than traditional methods (\*based on lab testing, the Acerpure Chef 2-in-1 Flip Air Fryer reduces oil by 80% compared to traditional deep fryers when cooking frozen fries). With a 5.5L air fryer capacity and a 2.5L cooking pot, it caters to various culinary needs. The intuitive LED touch panel provides precise temperature control, ranging from 80°C to 200°C for air frying and 80°C to 220°C for the cooking pot, making it perfect for frying, grilling, baking, and sautéing. Speaking on the launch, Mr.

Vasudeva G, Director of Acerpure India, said, "At Acerpure, we are redefining home appliances with innovation, quality, and smart technology at the core of everything we do. As a new-age brand, we are thrilled by the overwhelming response from Indian consumers to our growing portfolio, including TVs, water purifiers, air purifiers, air circulator fans, hair dryers, and stylers. In just eight months, we have expanded into six product categories, a testament to our commitment to delivering cutting-edge, user-friendly solutions. The Acerpure Chef 2-in-1 Flip

Air Fryer is another step in this journey, designed to make cooking healthier, easier, and more versatile. We aim to bring thoughtful innovations that enhance everyday living, making homes cleaner, safer, and happier."



**Housefull 5: Akshay Kumar is loved in comic roles and this year**



**Sikandar : Salman Khan in the title role, alongside Rashmika Mandanna**



**Škoda Auto Volkswagen India receives multiple awards for "Excellence at workplace"**

Pune: Škoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited (SAVWIPL) has received multiple recognitions for being an outstanding workplace. SAVWIPL achieved a significant milestone by securing the "Top Employer" certification and the "Best Companies to Work For in Asia", both for the second consecutive year. Adding to this remarkable success, the company has garnered accolades across three categories at the Economic Times Human Capital MENA awards.

the realm of human resources. The process comprises a rigorous evaluation spanning six critical organizational dimensions to choose the winner. This detailed audit involved approximately 260 assessment points, validating the company's commitment to ensure the best workplace practices and strategic human resource management. The recognition of being the "Best Companies to Work For in Asia" for the second consecutive year was based on a comprehensive evaluation of three core areas - Feel, Think, and Do - through employee feedback and a thorough audit, demonstrating SAVWIPL's success in creating an engaging workplace

environment. Adding to these achievements, SAVWIPL's debut participation in the Economic Times Human Capital MENA Awards resulted in recognition across three significant categories: Health and Wellness Excellence, Global Talent Acquisition, and Environmental and Social Governance Leadership. Speaking about the achievement, Piyush Arora, Managing Director and CEO of Škoda Auto Volkswagen India, said "Securing the "Top Employer" certification for the second year in a row is not just a badge of honour; it reflects our deep commitment to creating an environment where our employees can thrive. We understand

the vital role our people play in ensuring our success, and we earnestly work towards empowering them with a culture of innovation, integrity, inclusivity, and well-being. Receiving the Top Employer certification, along with being named among the "Best Companies to Work For in Asia" and bagging multiple accolades at the "Economic Times Human Capital MENA Awards" - is a clear reflection of the ethos we carry, and the Group's proven world-class work culture. As we continue to grow, we remain committed to the highest standards of compliance, ethics, and integrity, ensuring a workplace that is built on trust, respect, and responsible business practices."

**Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital and Sachin Tendulkar collaborate to promote eyecare wellness**

Pune (Voice news service)- Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, India's largest eye hospital chain with over 67 years of legacy and 223 hospitals globally, has roped in Sachin Tendulkar as its new brand ambassador. For the past 21 years, the hospital has been performing free eye surgeries on 100 patients annually under its '100 Centuries, 100 Patients' program—a tribute to the Cricketing Legend. This is in addition to the 2 lakh surgeries performed in a year while serving 2 million patients annually.

well-received by the masses. The first advertisement play's on one of Sachin's biggest fan confusing him with his look-alike only for the real Sachin to step in and save the day for his fan. In the second advertisement, The Master Blaster is paired with the renowned Australian cricketer Glenn McGrath, which evokes the nostalgia of the 1990s for cricket fans. Speaking on this association, Prof. Dr. Amar Agarwal, Chairman of Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, said, "We are honored to have Sachin Tendulkar as our brand ambassador. His association marks a new chapter in our journey of excellence in eye care. For

over two decades, our hospital has been performing 100 free eye surgeries annually as a tribute to him. His unparalleled legacy in cricket, as the only player to score 100 centuries, aligns with our mission to achieve the best in healthcare, one patient at a time. We remain committed to providing world-class eye care and raising awareness about the importance of good eye health through regular eye checkups for everyone." Sachin Tendulkar expressed his satisfaction with the partnership: "I am delighted to be collaborating with Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital. I had inaugurated their facility in Banga-



lore several years ago. The team had pledged to provide complimentary eye surgeries to patients in need. It appears that we have completed a full circle with our current association. I am delighted that the television commercials were well-received, as I had a wonderful time filming them. We are eager to collaborate in order to disseminate the significance of eye care throughout the globe and in India."

**Priority to Solving Issues of Unorganized Workers – Vishnupriya Roy Choudhury**

Pune: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actively working for the welfare of workers. Through various schemes, he has been striving to ensure justice for both organized and unorganized laborers. The Bharatiya Janata Mazdoor Cell has always been committed to the welfare of workers. We are working to reach the 167 labor welfare schemes introduced by Prime Minister Modi to the workers, giving special priority to solving the problems of unorganized laborers, said Vishnupriya Roy Choudhury, National Chairman of the Bharatiya Janata Mazdoor Cell. Sanjay Agarwal from Pune has been appointed as the National Secretary, and Jayesh Tank has been appointed as the Maharashtra Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Mazdoor Cell. Their appointment letters were handed over in a ceremony organized today at Shub-



harambh Lawns. Addressing the press conference on this occasion, Vishnupriya Roy Choudhury emphasized these points. The event was attended by Arnab Chatterjee, National President of Akhil Bharatiya Janata Mazdoor (Cell), Youth President Deepak Sharma, Maharashtra Women's President Savita Pandey, Ashok Rathi, Sunil Jyanjyot, Dilip Aba Tupe, Nitin Shitole, Rajendra Gire, and other dignitaries.

Further elaborating, Vishnupriya Roy Choudhury said that both state and central governments are focusing on the welfare of workers, but the number of contractual and unorganized laborers is high. Our organization is committed to resolving their issues. There are several government schemes available for unorganized workers, but they are not reaching them effectively. We have decided to work on a priority basis to

ensure these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries. We are also checking whether workers receive benefits like PF (Provident Fund) and ESI (Employee State Insurance). Our commitment is to ensure that workers receive the benefits of various schemes and are not exploited. Arnab Chatterjee highlighted that the organization is making significant progress in Maharashtra. Over the past three years, more than 200 branches have been established across the state. Compared to other labor unions, our organization has been performing well, resulting in notable success in various labor elections. Sanjay Agarwal and Jayesh Tank expressed their commitment to safeguarding the interests of workers across the state and the country, strengthening the organization, and ensuring that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's schemes reach the laborers.

**Tejas Dhingra Retains National Championship Title at NEC Show Jumping 2024-25**

Pune (Voice news service)- Tejas Dhingra of Beeya's Riding Facility successfully defended his National Championship title at the National Equestrian Championship (Show Jumping) 2024-25, held at Modi Equestrian Academy, Meerut, on Sunday. Dhingra, the reigning champion, secured his victory with 16 points in the Championship Tour, finishing ahead of joint runners-up Amar Sarin of Tarc Equestrian Centre and Ashray Butta of EGC Stables, who shared the second-place honours. Meanwhile, it was a moment of double delight for Yashaan Zubin Khambatta of Tarc Equestrian Centre, who reigned victorious in both the Novice and Medium Tours. Sehaj Singh Virk and



Abhishek Chopra shared second place in the Medium Tour, while Narayan Singh joined Yashaan on the podium for the Novice Tour, securing the runner-up position after Yashaan impressively claimed both the top two spots. The Preliminary

Tour Individual Final on Saturday saw Modi Equestrian Stables' Avik Bhatia clinch the gold medal with a composed and technically sound performance and a time of 31.02. Major Ritika Dahiya of Team ASC delivered an impressive

round to secure second place, while Dushyant Nagar rounded out the podium in third. A standout moment was 13-year-old Sravya Vohra's performance as the youngest rider in the championship, finishing in fifth place. Her exceptional composure and flawless performance throughout the rounds earned her a Special Appreciation Prize from the Modi Equestrian Academy and the Equestrian Federation of India. Meanwhile, in the Young Horse Championship, Modi Equestrian Stables rider Gaurav Lonkar triumphed on Aziza, scoring 8.0 points. Abhishek Chopra took second place with his horse Chicago, while Gurvinder, riding Viduthi, secured third place for Team RVC Centre & College.

**Childhood Cancer Survivors Lead Mumbai's Cycle for Gold**



Pune (Voice news service)- On Sunday, February 16, over 200 cyclists from across Mumbai, Thane, Mira Bhayander, and Panvel, led by Vikas Yadav and 12 other childhood cancer survivors, participated in the "Cycle for Gold" rally organized by CanKids KidsCan - The National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer in India to observe International Childhood Cancer Day. Starting at NCPA Nariman Point, the riders completed a 9-kilometer route along a packed Sunday audience at Marine Drive spreading awareness that childhood cancer is curable and children with cancer can survive and thrive. The cyclists also interacted with students of CanKids Canshala - school for children undergoing treatment in hospitals around Mumbai. The rally was flagged off by Shree Rajeev Nivatkar (IAS), Commissioner, Medical Education and AYUSH, MEDD, Government of Maharashtra. This event is part of the fourth edition of "Cycle for Gold."

India's largest charity cycling challenge, aimed at raising awareness, support, and funds for childhood cancer care. The initiative targets 600,000 collective kilometers over 40 days, with a fundraising goal of Rs. 3 crores to support treatment for 24,000 children battling cancer this year under CanKids KidsCan's holistic care model. The rally marks International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) on February 15, aligning with the International Union for Childhood Cancer's theme, "United by Unique, People-Centered Care: Win for Every Child". The rally highlighted powerful stories of courage, including that of Vikas Yadav, a 25-year-old Retinoblastoma survivor who led the ride. "When I lost my eye to cancer, I thought my future was over. But your journey doesn't end with a diagnosis - it begins with a fight," Vikas shared. "I ride because I survived, and every child deserves that chance to survive and thrive." He further emphasized the



importance of collaboration in improving childhood cancer outcomes: "I deserve Access2Care - anytime, anywhere is what every cancer patient tells the world. By coming together with the government, hospitals, treating doctors, NGOs, and civil society, we can inspire meaningful action, ensure that every child's needs are heard, and give them the support they need to overcome cancer." Chief guest Mr Rajeev Nivatkar (IAS), Commissioner Medical education and AYUSH, shared their thoughts: "It is inspiring to see cyclists across Maharashtra come together to spread awareness and support children facing cancer. With initiatives like Cycle for Gold, we reinforce the message that childhood cancer is curable, and children can not only survive but thrive. CanKids is doing great work in childhood cancer space, their holistic approach is truly commendable." In Maharashtra, CanKids has partnered with 20 cancer hospitals, supporting over 13,000

children and families to date. This includes funding for diagnostics, drugs, surgeries, prosthetics, education and accommodation. Board Member Ms Priti Dhall underscored the importance of collective action. "Cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide, with around 80,000 children diagnosed in India each year. Through collaborative efforts like Cycle for Gold, we can achieve the WHO target of a 60% survival rate by 2030, ensuring that no child is left behind." "Cycle for Gold is more than just a cycling challenge - it's a movement to unite individuals, organizations, and communities for lasting change," added Ms Dhall "Every kilometer cycled brings us closer to better treatment, support, and survival for children with cancer." With the success of the Mumbai rally, the campaign continues to inspire action and bring hope to thousands of children fighting cancer across India, as it progresses toward its March 16 conclusion.

**Indian Cricketer Rahul Tripathi Inaugurates the Sixth Season of 'Sindhi Premier League'**

Pune: Indian cricketer Rahul Tripathi inaugurated the sixth season of the Sindhi Premier League, a nonprofit cricket tournament, at Mrunal Cricket Ground in Pimpri. The league aims to unite the Sindhi community, promoting the importance of fitness and contributing to society. The matches will be played over 24 days, culminating in a grand closing ceremony on March 9, 2025. The inauguration ceremony was graced by entrepreneurs Dabhu Aswani and Shrichand Aswani, along with organizers Kanwal Khiani, Hitesh Daddani, Kamal Jethani, Ankush Mulchandani, Naresh Nasha, Karan Aswani, Avi Tejwani, Avi Israni, Kunal Gudela, and Piyush Jethani. Rahul Tripathi said, "Cricket is a game that brings everyone together. This tournament is being played with great enthusiasm, bringing entire families together. Outdoor sports should be played to stay mentally refreshed and physically fit. The initiative taken by the Sindhi community is commendable. The presence of players along with their children on the field fills



the atmosphere with energy. This league is important for instilling a sportsman's spirit among the youth of the community. Enjoy the game with teamwork and honesty." Kanwal Khiani said, "This cricket tournament has been organized for the past six years to encourage the youth of the Sindhi community to participate in sports, preserve Sindhi culture, and support charitable organizations with a sense of social responsibility. In this tournament, a total of 16 teams are participating in the men's category, while eight teams are competing in the women's category. The men's teams are named after elements of Sindhi culture, while the women's teams are named after rivers. A total of

90 women and 251 men have registered as players." The men's category in this tournament includes teams such as Mast Kalandar, Sultans of Sindh, Mohejro Daro Warriors, Sindhpool Rangers, SSD Falcons, Indus Dynamos, Dada Vaswani's Brigade, Jhulelal Super Kings, Hemu Kalani Gladiators, Guru Nanak Knights, Sant Kanwarom Royals, Aryans United, Jai Baba Strikers, Sindhi Indians, Ajrak Super Giants, and Pimpri Yodhas. In the women's category, the participating teams are Ganga Warriors, Godavari Giants, Jhelum Queens, Sindhu Starlets, Yamuna Strikers, Narmada Titans, Krishna Supernovas, and Indrayani Thunderbolts.

The opening match of the tournament was a thrilling encounter between Sindhpool Rangers and Sultans of Sindh, culminating in a dramatic Super Over, where Sindhpool Rangers emerged victorious. Earlier, Rangers won the toss and opted to bat first. Openers Chirag Nirankari and Dinesh Rizwani gave an explosive start with a 37-run partnership. Nirankari smashed 34 runs off 15 balls, hitting 4 sixes and 1 four, while Ram Popatani scored 25 runs off 13 balls with 2 sixes and 1 four. Rangers set a target of 87 runs, finishing at 86/5 in 9 overs. In response, Sultans' openers Rajiv Ahuja (11 off 5) and Piyush Rammani (49 off 24) played aggressively. Rammani's innings included 5 sixes and 3 fours, but he fell just one run short of his half-century. The Sultans also managed 86 runs, forcing a Super Over. In the Super Over, Sultans of Sindh scored 9 runs, setting a 10-run target for Rangers. Sindhpool Rangers chased it down in just 5 balls, securing victory. Dinesh Rizwani was named Player of the Match.

**Stupa & UTT Elevate Indian Table Tennis as WTT Star Contender Comes to Chennai**

Pune: The partnership between Stupa Sports Analytics and Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) continues to redefine Indian table tennis and is set to enhance it further by bringing world-class international competition to Chennai for the first time with WTT Star Contender. Set to take place from March 25 - 30 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, this premier event will offer a USD 275,000 prize purse and 600 crucial ITTF ranking points, attracting elite international talent while providing Indian players with an unparalleled stage to compete at the highest level in a city that has become synonymous with Indian table tennis, not least for its producing international icons like Achantha Sharath Kamal, Sathiyan Gnanasekaran, and more. Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Malik, Founder of Stupa Sports Analytics, which has played a key role in bringing the WTT Star Contender to India and successfully hosted it for the two

Goa editions, said, "Bringing the Star Contender to Chennai reaffirms WTT's confidence in us since we brought the first edition of the tournament in 2023 to Goa. Stupa, alongside its stakeholders, has been driving table tennis growth in India through cutting-edge technology and hosting world-class events. Having Chennai, a city and a region so crucial to Indian table tennis, as the host city aligns with this vision to elevate the sport and enhance the tournament's global stature." Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin expressed his excitement about the event, stating, "Hosting the WTT Star Contender in Chennai is a proud moment for India and reaffirms our dedication to positioning the state as India's premier sports destination. This event not only showcases our world-class infrastructure but also inspires our youth to embrace sports as a way of life. We welcome players

from around the globe and are committed to making this event a grand success." While the arrival of the WTT Star Contender will elevate Chennai's strong sporting culture, it will also provide Indian talent and fans greater exposure to world-class global competition over a longer term, turning the city into an active table tennis hub. Kamlesh Mehta, Secretary of TTFI, said, "Chennai's emergence as a global table tennis hub is exciting. This commitment will build on India's success in hosting WTT Star Contender and further elevate the sport. Watching world-class talent up close will inspire the next generation and set new benchmarks for Indian table tennis." Ekansh Gupta, Vice President of Ultimate Table Tennis, said, "The partnership between Ultimate Table Tennis and Stupa has been instrumental in transforming Indian table tennis, bringing top competition and inspiring young talent. With WTT Star Contender set for Chennai,

we are further strengthening our commitment to the sport's growth. By combining UTT's league excitement with WTT's elite international competition, we are building a dynamic ecosystem that nurtures talent, enhances the sporting culture, and solidifies India's presence on the global stage." The WTT Star Contender is part of the WTT five-tier competition structure and will showcase five categories: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. The tournament will kick off with qualifiers in the first two days, leading up to an electrifying finale on March 29 and 30. Thirteen WTT Star Contenders have taken place since the competition's debut in 2021, including four each in 2023 and 2024. The first WTT Star Contender of 2025 took place in Doha, Qatar, with Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto and China's Kuai Man winning the men's and women's singles, respectively.

## State-of-the-art MRI services inaugurated at VishwaRaj Hospital

**Pune (Voice news service):-** State-of-the-art MRI services were inaugurated today at VishwaRaj Hospital, Loni.

Renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. Parag Sancheti, Chairman of Sancheti Hospital and Dr. Narayan Karne, President Elect of Maharashtra Orthopedic Association, were present as the Chief Guests, while Dr. Aditi Karad, Member trustee and joint secretary MAEER's MIT -Pune, Executive Director VishwaRaj Hospital, was present as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Ajitay Tamhane, Head of the Radiology Department at Vishwaraj Hospital, Dr. Tabrez Pathan - Asst General manager Operations, Dr. Pramod Surve, Dr. Ramprasad Dharangutti, Assistant Medical Superintendent Dr. Sachin Katkade,

Dr. Sampat Dumbrepatil, Dr Sachin Abne were present. In the CME that followed after the inauguration Dr. Parag Sancheti gave a presentation on 'Osteoarthritis of knee and recent advances'. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Parag Sancheti, Chairman of Sancheti Hospital and renowned orthopedic surgeon, said that advanced MRI services are crucial for accurate diagnosis especially in orthopedics, which can give information on abnormalities not only in bones but also ligaments and muscles. MRI is an essential investigation in Orthopedics. Dr. Narayan Karne, President Elect of Maharashtra Orthopedic Association lauded the efforts of Vishwaraj Hospitals in advancing the services which would be beneficial to



the patients in and around Hadapsar. Dr. Ajitay Tamhane, Head of the Department of Radiology at Vishwaraj Hospital, said that this state-of-the-art MRI equipment will enable greater clarity in images and accuracy in diagnosis. Since the scan process takes relatively less time, the service will be very convenient

for patients. Due to the state-of-the-art equipment, abnormalities in the body can be seen more clearly, which will enable better diagnosis and treatment outcomes. This ultra-modern machine is beneficial for accurate diagnostics in neurology, paediatrics, gynaecology, oncology, orthopaedics and other areas

## BNCA Wins National Award for Project on Cluster Redevelopment



**Pune (Voice news service):-** MKSSS's Dr Bhanuben Nanawati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA) won a national award for the Council of Architecture's Urban Studio Research project (USRP). The project titled Urban Renewal Schemes in Core Cities: Is the current Model of Cluster Redevelopment a Best Fit in Core Areas; was selected among the top 3 projects and won an award worth Rs. 1,00,000. The national jury was conducted on 21st Jan 2025 at R. V. College of Architecture, Bengaluru where 16 selected projects were presented by their respective teams.

The USRP project at BNCA is led by Dr. Vaishali Anagal. The project team includes Dr. Sharvey Dhongde, Dr. Sujata Karve, Prof. Chaitanya Peshave, Prof. Sonali Malvanekar, Prof. Deva Prasad and Prof. Siddhi Joshi. Dr. Vaishali Anagal and Dr. Sharvey Dhongde received an award at the hands of Ar. Abhay Purohit, President, Council of Architecture in presence of veteran architect Raj Rewal at Dayanand College of Architecture at Bengaluru on 22nd Jan 2025. Dr Anurag Kashyap, Principal BNCA, highlighted that BNCA is committed to undertake socially relevant projects and offering students opportuni-

ties to interact with end users to receive feedback on their projects. This project is such exemplar project and was selected under Council of Architecture's initiative of Urban Studio Research Project in 2021. Dr Vaishali Anagal, the project lead elaborated that this project addresses the issues of cluster redevelopment policy as a part of Urban Renewal Schemes proposed under Unified Development, Control and Promotion Regulations in December 2020 proposed by the state government of Maharashtra. Any large-scale redevelopment has significant impact on the urban fabric, urban densities, local culture and people. All the historic cores of Pune city have a specific urban fabric, architectural character and culture. People in these core areas have a sense of place, sense of belonging and a sense of attachment to their neighbourhoods. This project investigates

the impact of cluster redevelopment, and the appropriateness of the densities proposed under UDPCR guidelines in historic cores. Students of fourth year of BNCA developed a model of prospective cluster development of Rasta Peth considering liveability parameters. A participatory workshop was organised in the Rasta Peth in April 2023 where the prospective cluster redevelopment was presented to the residents of Rasta Peth using panels, physical model and virtual reality model. The workshop received excellent feedback from the residents of Rasta Peth. The urban design guidelines are being developed based on the feedback received through this participatory workshop and recommendations to restructure the UDPCR will be submitted to the state government as an outcome of this research project. These guidelines can be applicable to the historic cores across India.

## New Pearson Survey Uncovers Challenges Faced by English Language Test Takers in India

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Pearson, (FTSE: PSON.L) the world's lifelong learning company and its English Language Learning business, revealed insights from a social perception survey conducted by the Pearson Test of English - its English language test for study, work, and migration visas. The survey unveils that over 3 in 5 (62%) English test takers in India believe that their Indian accent would negatively impact their speaking test outcomes, and almost 3 in 4 (74%) believe that their appearance might impact their test score when a human examiner is involved. Revealing stark insights about test takers' perceptions of biases, particularly those related to looks, accents, and appearances. It highlights the need for fairer systems that focus solely on learners' knowledge and abilities. This is even more critical in high-stakes situations, like English language tests, that can impact people's futures. **Different biases, different treatment** As per the survey, nearly 6 out of 10 (59%) respondents believe that they

will be treated differently based on their skin colour, calling out their fear of unconscious favouritism extended toward people with lighter skin. Almost 2 in 3 (64%) believe that they can create a wrong impression based on how they dress. These perceptions are especially strong among test-takers in Maharashtra, where 67% carry this belief. Job roles and educational background are also feared to impact how people are treated, with 7 in 10 respondents, especially those in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, believing they will be treated with more respect if they have a prestigious job or a strong educational background. **Societal perceptions can impact test scores** The impact of unconscious bias runs deep, especially in a diverse country like India where how you speak is perceived as a reflection of how smart or knowledgeable you are. As per the survey, over 3 out of 5 (63%) test takers, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, believe that removing their

Indian accents while speaking English will positively impact test scores. One's external appearance is also believed to impact outcomes. Punjab feels this most strongly, with 77% of respondents from the state believing appearance can impact outcomes of their speaking test. **Changing one's real self to make the right impression** Nearly 2 in 3 (64%) respondents think that having a certain accent can help them get a better score in the speaking test. 35% of respondents, including those in Tamil Nadu, believe an American accent contributes to better test scores, while 21%, especially those in Uttar Pradesh say a British accent will play to their advantage. Over 3 in 4 (76%) also believe that they can create a 'professional' experience by dressing up formally, leading to higher scores. Prabhul Ravindran, Director of English Language Learning, Pearson India, says, "For many years in India, people's insecurities with their accents, and appearances have determined the opportunities available to them, ultimately

impacting their earning potential. We have seen this play out even in the most critical situations where people's futures are often at stake. The English language testing and the broader global mobility space are not immune to these challenges. However, at Pearson, we are transforming this landscape. Our evaluation system leverages responsible AI and language experts and to focus solely on assessing language proficiency, free from face-to-face interviews with technology that recognises more than 125 accents. By designing a test that eliminates biases and emphasizes English skills, we aim to foster a positive and inclusive environment where everyone has a fair opportunity to chase their dreams." Pearson Test of English's new campaign channels these insights to emphasise the need for fairer English language testing. By spotlighting how people try to change how they look or speak to fit social moulds, the campaign seeks to inspire a discussion on creating fair, bias-free environments where ability and potential take centre stage.

## India has the best potential to take leadership in AI applications-Experts express confidence in Indian Entrepreneurial spirit at the 'TIECON 2025'

**Pune (Voice news service):-** With AI talent in India, AI skills penetration, digital economy, access to data and its use in various sectors, phenomenal entrepreneurship spirit, India has the best potential to take leadership in AI applications opined various experts at the TIECON 2025, the flagship event of the The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE), Pune chapter, a not-for-profit making organisation dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship. The two day conference featuring deep dive master classes and technology sessions saw a participation of more than 700 young entrepreneurs. Dr. Mayur Datar Chief Datar Scientist, Flipkart spoke on AI Evolution and application in e-commerce and said that GenAI has seen an unparalleled pace of adoption and level of interest. **Startups get their lesson from Sporting Arena** In conversation with Rahul Chaudhary CoFounder Treebo, Mr. Viren Rasquinha, the CEO of OGQ and Ex India Hockey



Caption said that many of us are most fearful about losing. But my defeats have taught me more than victories, he said referring to Olympic semifinals at Athens against Australia. We learnt to handle the pressure of the situation and execute under pressure where chances come and go in fraction of a seconds. Margins are fine in sports and boils down on getting better on every aspect. You have to focus and play to your strengths, he said. Rahul Chaudhary, CoFounder Treebo, said that choosing a sporting career is equally

risky as starting a new business. Taking hits over the chin, rejection is a part of the daily routine. We can learn how athletes show resilience and fight back. **Anu Aga conferred the 'Spirit of TIE Award'** Anu Aga, Former Chairperson Thermax was conferred the 'Spirit of TIE Award' for her contribution to entrepreneurship and innovation. Mr. Ajay Bhagwat, President TIE Pune, Mr. Kiran Deshpande Chairperson TIECON 2025 and Mr. Naganand Doraswamy, former President TIE Bangalore were present on the oc-

casion. While accepting the award she said our country faces many social issues like malnutrition, education etc. Sharing her interest in working for value based education for the underprivileged, she said that while we all do something for the society we should do more and I am a strong believer that everyone can contribute to a better world. In his inaugural address Ajay Bhagwat, President TIE, Pune Chapter said that there are 87 charter members benefitting close to 600 associate members with their knowledge, expertise and mentoring. Entrepreneurship is the only way forward for our country. He outlined various structural mentorship programs and initiatives that TIE Pune has for young entrepreneurs like Nurture, TIECON, TIE University, TIE Women etc. Mr. Kiran Deshpande, Chairperson TIECON 2025 and Global Trustee TIE said that taking these initiatives forward we are setting the stage for next generation of entrepreneurs.

## Netafim's Integrated Sugarcane Management Summit under Drip Fertigation and Automation Precision Farming to Transform Maharashtra's Sugarcane Yield

**Pune:** Netafim India, a leading provider of smart irrigation solutions, commenced two-day high-octane summit on Integrated Sugarcane Management under Drip Fertigation and Automation in Pune. The event brought together 50+ sugarcane mills and 80+ industry leaders, and agricultural experts to discuss strategies to enhance sugarcane productivity through precision irrigation, fertigation, and automation. The conference commenced with an inauguration ceremony attended by eminent dignitaries, including Shri. Shekhar Gaikwad, IAS, Additional Director General, YASHADA, Pune and Former Commissioner of Sugar, Maharashtra; Shri. Bhairavnath Bhagvanrao Thombare, President, West Indian Sugar Mills Association (WISMA) & CMD, Natural Sugar and Allied Industries, Dharashiv; Dr. K. P. Mote, Mission Director and Director of Horticulture, Maharashtra State Horticulture and Medicinal Plant Board; Dr. Mahanand Shivajirao Mane, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Pune; Dr. Ravindra Dalpatrao Bansod, Associate Dean, RCMSS College of Agriculture, Kolhapur; Dr. R. L. Bhilare, Sugarcane Specialist, Central Sugarcane Research Station, Padegaon and Dr. V Praveen



Rao, Advisor, CII Telangana Agri & Food Processing Panel & Vice Chancellor, Kaveri University & International Micro-Irrigation Consultant & Executive Director PJTSAU. Netafim representatives Shri. Vikas Sonawane, COO; Shri. Arun Deshmukh, Head Agronomist - Central and North India; and Shri. Krishnath Mahamulkar, Head - Central Strategic Business Unit, provided insights into Maharashtra's evolving sugarcane landscape, emphasizing the need for scalable irrigation solutions to boost crop yield and income security for farmers. With India contributing 20% to global sugar production and over 520 sugar mills in operation, the sugarcane production faces an urgent need for modernization to meet rising domestic and global demand. Maharashtra's sugarcane acreage as of 2023-24 is 14.1 lakh hectares out of which

only 4 lakh hectares are under drip irrigation, presenting a massive opportunity to enhance productivity. The data also suggests, sugarcane productivity has stagnated at around 78 tonnes per hectare in the state, while sugar recovery is also stagnating at around 10.3% during the same period. Climate change, erratic monsoons, and water stress have further exacerbated challenges in production. During the discussion, experts highlighted that drip irrigation, improved cane varieties, advanced agrochemicals, automation solution and better farm management as critical to achieving higher productivity. Statistics suggests that drip irrigation alone has saved around 212 TMC of water per season, boosted yields by around 10 million tonnes, and added around INR 3,000 crore additional income to farmers of

Maharashtra per season. Expanding drip irrigation to the remaining 10 lakh hectares could significantly enhance national sugar output and resource efficiency. There are already success stories of farmers in Maharashtra who has a recorded yields of 130-140 tonnes per acre in some areas, showcasing the potential of drip irrigation. Accelerating the adoption of automation, advanced irrigation, and sustainable agronomic practices could establish the state as a benchmark in high-yield, resource-efficient agriculture. Maharashtra's agricultural landscape is on the brink of transformation, with Marathwada and Vidarbha emerging as key growth hubs, while Western Maharashtra's service sector is poised to rival European standards in the coming years. As government policies, industry initiatives, and technological advancements converge, sugarcane farmers stand to gain from increased productivity and stable incomes. A strategic push toward drip irrigation and ecosystem-driven solutions can not only elevate Maharashtra's sugarcane production but also reinforce India's position as a global sugar powerhouse, ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability and farmer prosperity.

## 'Vaccine for Hope': Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital Rolls Out Free HPV Vaccination to Prevent Cervical Cancer in Young Girls

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital (ABMH) is proud to announce the successful inauguration of its 'Vaccine for Hope' initiative, a community-driven campaign aimed at combating cervical cancer through the administration of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines. The event was graced by Hon'ble Minister Aditi Varda Sunil Tatkare, Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, and Mr. Pamesh Gupta, CEO, Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital. Furthermore, Dr. Nikhil Parwate, Gynaec Oncologist, Dr. Priya Mankare, Sr Consultant Pediatrician and Dr. Amit Patil, Sr Consultant Obs & Gynaecology IVF Specialist also shared their insights on cervical cancer at the event, underscoring ABMH's unwavering commitment to preventive healthcare. The 'Vaccine for Hope' drive has been meticulously designed as a six-month initiative to provide free HPV vaccines to young girls aged between 09 to 14, a demographic identified as being at higher risk for HPV infections. This initiative aligns with ABMH's mission to enhance

community health by preventing HPV-related diseases, particularly cervical cancer. The hospital has facilitated the vaccination camp, reinforcing their dedication to safeguarding future generations and striving to bridge the healthcare gap in society. Cervical cancer remains a significant health concern in India, ranking as the second most frequent cancer among women in the country. Current estimates indicate that annually, approximately 123,900 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and almost 80,000 succumb to the disease. Infections with high-risk HPV strains, notably types 16 and 18, cause most of the cervical cancer. Vaccination against HPV is a highly effective preventive measure, with studies indicating that immunization can substantially reduce the incidence of cervical cancer. However, the uptake still remains low, making initiatives like 'Vaccine for Hope' crucial in the fight against this preventable disease. Mr. Pamesh, CEO of Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "At ABMH, we believe that preventive healthcare is the bedrock of a healthy society. The



'Vaccine for Hope' campaign is a testament to our dedication to empowering communities with the tools and knowledge necessary to combat cervical cancer. By providing free HPV vaccinations, we aim to protect our daughters, sisters, and mothers from this devastating yet preventable disease." The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister Aditi Varda Sunil Tatkare, Minister for Women and Child Development lauded the hospital's efforts, remarking, "Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital's visionary approach in launching the 'Vaccine for Hope' drive is commendable. Such initiatives are pivotal in raising awareness and providing essential healthcare services to those in need. I am honored to be part of this noble endeavor and I encourage everyone to participate in it." In addition to the HPV vac-

nation drive, ABMH actively engages in several CSR initiatives to enhance community health. These include comprehensive cancer screening programs for breast, cervical, oral, and other cancers, as well as expert-led essential medical procedures such as cataract surgeries, cleft surgeries, and pediatric cardiology surgeries. These programs reflect ABMH's well-rounded approach to making quality healthcare accessible to those in need. The 'Vaccine for Hope' campaign will not only provide vaccinations but also spread awareness of cervical cancer, its causes, and the importance of regular screenings. ABMH remains committed to its mission of delivering quality healthcare and will continue to lead programs like this in the future that promote the well-being of the community.

## Pune's largest retail high street, Tribeca Highstreet launches The Great Food Carnival



**Pune:** Tribeca Highstreet, Pune's largest high street retail destination, is all set to host The Great Food Carnival, a month-long celebration of flavors, entertainment and community experiences. Started on February 14 and

running until March 9, the carnival is transforming Tribeca Highstreet into the ultimate culinary hotspot of Pune, featuring a lineup of Pune's most loved cafes, bars and restaurants including Hippie@Heart, Urban Foundry, Good Flippin' Burgers, McDonald's, Starbucks, Aryans, Si Nonna's, Subway and Chaayos. Opening soon are some of the top F&B brands like Dominos, Frozen Bottle, Haldiram's, Chinese Wok & BlueTokai. Girish Kamble, Regional CEO, Tribeca Developers said, "Pune has witnessed significant growth in the F&B sector, with global and international brands choosing the city as their base. At Tribeca High Street, we are commit-

ted to curating the ultimate culinary experience for South Pune. The Great Food Carnival is a step in that direction - bringing the best cafes, bars, and restaurants together under one roof." The Great Food Carnival will offer a diverse lineup of themed weekends, each curated with engaging activities and irresistible deals. The weekends following 22nd & 28th Feb offers a variety of cuisines & pop ups. The Great Food Carnival will also hold live stand-up comedy & an open mic opportunity for budding artists complimented by live band performances, kids' workshops and flea markets. The Great Food Carnival will conclude with the women's



day weekend, which will be a three-day long Bollywood Carnival with endless fun with mascots & flash mobs, live artists' performances, an exciting mix of food & drinks (alcoholic & non-alcoholic), and shopping.

## Top 5 Tips to Spot Fake Insurance Agents

**Pune:** Insurance fraud is on the rise, and scammers are getting more sophisticated. Falling for a fake insurance agent can leave you without coverage when you need it most. Considering the impact that this can have, InsuranceDekho, India's leading insurtech brand, has come

up with a list of five major red flags to help people stay alert and protect themselves:

1. Too Good to Be True Offers If an insurance plan promises unrealistically low premiums, guaranteed high returns, or "exclusive" deals, be cautious. Genuine policies always come with risks and

standard terms. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is not.

2. Cash-Only Payments A legitimate insurance company will never ask for cash payments or transfers to personal accounts. Fraudsters prefer cash or unofficial payment methods to avoid traceability.

Always ensure payments go directly to the official company account.

3. No Digital or Official Presence,
4. Unprofessional Communication
5. High-Pressure Sales Tactics, "This offer expires today!", "Pay now to lock in this special rate!", "You'll miss out if you don't act immediately!"

**APRILIA TUONO 457 LAUNCHED IN INDIA BY BRAND AMBASSADOR JOHN ABRAHAM**


**Pune (Voice news service):-** A new Aprilia Tuono is born, and new generations of motorcyclists - among the most knowledgeable and passionate out there - know that a new machine dedicated to pure fun has arrived in India. At a thunderous evening in Bangalore, Mr Diego Graffi, Chairman and MD Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd along with Aprilia India brand ambassador John Abraham, launched the Aprilia Tuono 457 for the Indian market.

Young motorcyclists have already demonstrated their appreciation for Aprilia's skill in understanding and interpreting their desire for fun with the RS 457, a model that was conceived in Noale. This excellent technical base provides the building blocks for the Aprilia Tuono 457, unveiled to new riders as a true naked bike, dedicated to day-to-day riding and leisure-time fun.

The new Aprilia bears a legendary name which has always been synonymous with cutting-edge technology, maximum performance and absolute enjoyment both on the road and on the track. Speaking at the unveil, Mr Diego Graffi, Chairman and MD, Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd, said, "I am thrilled to introduce to India the Aprilia Tuono 457, a year after we introduced the segment disruptor Aprilia RS457. There were a lot of enquiries for

naked sibling to the RS and Tuono 457 is the latest heir to a tradition of excellence in high-handlebar sports bikes offering a superb, adrenaline-filled ride.

The Tuono 457 has a number of differences that render it all the more exclusive: it is the only bike in the range that does not have a fairing integrated into the frame. In its place - for the first time on a Tuono - is a pared-back light cluster, worthy of a true naked bike. It's the most non-conformist and rebellious Tuono that has ever been, and whilst it retains the core features of all Tuono bikes, the new model boasts an all-new look, designed to satisfy the needs and desires of the youngest generation at which it is aimed."

He further added, "I am sure the Tuono 457 will also win over bikers in India and I cannot wait to hear their feelings astride the new Tuono" Brand Ambassador John Abraham also expressed his views, "Like many other bikers, I was also hoping for a Tuono 457 to be introduced to India. The Aprilia Tuono has a legendary portfolio and I am sure the new Tuono 457 will completely dominate the naked segment. The bike is agile, powerful and looks distinct and incredible, all things that one expects from Aprilia. I think this will be the perfect city and urban riding bike and I cant wait to get this bike home."

**ZF Aftermarket Inaugurates India's First State-of-the-Art ZF [pro]Tech plus Workshop in New Delhi**


**Pune (Voice news service):-** ZF Group, a global leader in driveline and chassis technology, as well as active and passive safety technology, proudly announces the opening of India's first ZF [pro]Tech plus workshop in New Delhi. ZF Aftermarket has a considerable legacy of workshops of over 40 years. This newly inaugurated workshop is part of ZF's well-recognized ZF [pro]Tech network, which since 2012, has been empowering workshops by providing technical knowledge, training, and service data of OEMs.

The workshop in New Delhi was inaugurated by Markus Wittig, Global Head of Business Line Passenger Car, ZF Aftermarket, and Vijay Khorgade, Head of Business Line Passenger Car, ZF Aftermarket. Rolly Chadha, Head of European Motor Works and the owner of this workshop, led the inaugural celebration. This event underscores the success and global importance of this initiative, highlighting ZF's dedication to empowering its partners worldwide.

Markus Wittig, Global Head of Business Line Passenger Car, ZF Aftermarket stated, "I am very pleased with this launch of India's first ZF [pro]Tech plus workshop. This reiterates our commitment and ambition in the Indian market. With this facility, we will be

able to provide unparalleled support to our workshop partners, enhancing their capabilities and ensuring they are well-equipped to meet the evolving demands of the automotive industry in India. It also marks the start of a nationwide roll-out of our workshop concept in India."

Vijay Khorgade, Head of Business Line Passenger Car IMEA added, "For India, ZF Aftermarket is setting the benchmark for workshop expectations in terms of technology and quality. By offering technical know-how and training, we enable our partners to deliver exceptional service and support to their customers. As most of us know Indian automotive market is on the cusp of an evolution, and the ZF [pro]Tech plus concept enables workshops to keep pace with the new technologies and advances in mobility, making them relevant and ready for the future."

Rolly Chadha Head of European Motor Works and the owner of this workshop expressed his enthusiasm, "We have been associated with ZF Group for several years now. As a legacy distributor, we are aware of the technology and quality ZF Aftermarket represents and we are thrilled to be part of ZF [pro]Tech plus network as the first-ever workshop.

**Blockbuster Alert: Powerhouse Ranveer Singh the first-ever 'Brand Superstar' for Škoda Auto India**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** Soon after introducing its first-ever sub-4-metre SUV, the Kylaq, Škoda Auto India has achieved another milestone - announcing Powerhouse Ranveer Singh as its first-ever 'Brand Superstar'. The association is marked with signature, Škoda styled, people-driven campaigns, fuelled by Ranveer Singh for Škoda Auto India's fans and customers.

Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, speaking on the association shares, "When the Kylaq was premiered, I promised that, 'Picture abhi baaki hai'. As we celebrate 25 years in India, we have committed to driving into a new era here, which goes beyond launching world-class products. It revolves around revamping every aspect of the business, including the way we engage with our customers and fans. Around the world, and more so in India, cars and movies generate emotions that are unparalleled, and bring people together. And so for the first time in our history in India, I am proud to announce Ranveer Singh as the first-ever 'Brand Superstar' for Škoda Auto India. Being a powerhouse of talent and energy, on and off-screen, Ranveer's persona strongly reflects our passion and ethos. This announcement comes at a time when we are celebrating 130 years of global excellence. There is a lot more this part-

nership is going to bring for our products, our network and our customers, as we look to strengthen our position as the most important market for Škoda outside Europe." The first blockbuster by Škoda Auto India featuring the brand superstar premieres soon in which Ranveer Singh will star alongside the Kylaq. This is followed by a brand-centric film planned at the end of March, through which fans

enthusiasts and a wider customer base in India's growing market. With a strong legacy and an iconic range of products, the brand continues to set high standards in the automotive industry."

**When Superstar meets Superstar** The association between Škoda Auto India and Ranveer Singh is an organic and natural fit where his energy, vivacious presence and dynamic personality perfectly



and customers will have an opportunity to meet Ranveer Singh and the management of Škoda Auto India later in the year.

Ranveer Singh, the first-ever brand superstar for Škoda Auto India, says, "I am thrilled to be Škoda Auto India's first-ever brand superstar. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to excellence, and I look forward to contributing to the growth of Škoda Auto in India. Škoda Auto has a diverse and exciting product portfolio that caters to both automotive

mirrors Škoda Auto India's fun-to-drive and entertaining cars. Yet, they are both safe, bankable and the best at their craft forming a perfect resonance. For Škoda Auto India, this partnership is another step towards getting closer to customers, with signature, Škoda styled, people-centric campaigns.

**Driving Future Growth** The association between Škoda Auto India and Ranveer Singh is in line with the company's growth strategy planned for this dynamic automotive market. At the Bharat Mobil-

**India is on Track to Become a \$30-35 Trillion Economy in the Next Two Decades, Says, Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** "India is well on track to become a \$30-35 trillion economy in the next two decades", said Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India at The Times Group ET NOW Global Business Summit 2025.

Outlining India's long-term economic vision, he continued, "Our focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth will ensure that this vision becomes a reality." The Minister of Commerce and Industry emphasised that India will emerge as the world's third-largest economy sooner than anticipated, citing the nation's rapid economic progress.

"India is currently the fifth-largest economy and has proven to be an oasis of stability in a volatile world. Our strong macroeconomic fundamentals, record-high forex reserves, and well-managed current account balance are key indicators of this resilience," he noted.



Highlighting India's remarkable economic path, he said the country's rising global influence, is due to its push for manufacturing and innovation, and the government's commitment to inclusive, women-led development. Discussing India's rising global influence, the Minister of Commerce and Industry informed, "Today, we are the voice of the Global South, shaping international trade and economic policies."

He also pinpointed India's manufacturing potential, stating, "Our robust industrial ecosystem and our relentless focus on self-reliance are

expanding railway networks, and urban metros are driving economic growth at an accelerated pace."

Goyal also highlighted the critical role of women in India's economic rise, stating, "The rise of India's women is at the heart of our growth story. Female participation in the workforce has increased from 11% a decade ago to nearly 45-50% today. Nari Shakti is shaping India's future." The Times Group ET NOW Global Business Summit 2025 Day 2 continues to be as impactful as the first day with the interesting session, furthering the important conversations around India's role in the global economy.

Leaders focused on India's strengths in innovation, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance, underlining the summit's theme, 'Evolve, Emerge, Expand,' and setting the stage for forward-thinking discussions that will influence industries, economies, and societies.

**BYD India announces prices for the BYD SEALION 7 Pure Performance eSUV starting from ₹48.9 lakh**

**Pune (Voice news service):-** BYD India, a subsidiary of BYD, the world's leading NEV (New Energy Vehicle) manufacturer, has announced prices of its all-new BYD SEALION 7 to customers.

BYD India had unveiled the BYD SEALION 7 Pure Performance eSUV at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 on January 18, 2025. The fully electric SUV had also commenced bookings for customers on the eve of the unveil. Priced at ₹48.9 lakh the Pure Performance eSUV has garnered over 1000 bookings within a month under the Promotional Booking Policy.

The BYD SEALION 7 is a Pure Performance fully electric SUV that seamlessly blends ocean-inspired aesthetics with cutting-edge innovation. It is a highly successful product with a strong global legacy. It incorporates BYD's cutting-edge Intelligence Torque Adaption Control (ITAC) and the acclaimed CTB (Cell to Body) technology. This technology integrates BYD's Blade Battery as a structural element of the chassis, enhancing both safety and performance, while offering increased cabin space, superior handling and an



extended range. The BYD SEALION 7 is available with an 82.56 kWh battery pack and a choice of Premium and Performance variants.

Mr. Rajeev Chauhan, Head of Electric Passenger Vehicles (EPV) Business at BYD India, said, "The unveil of the SEALION 7 at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 is a milestone event for BYD India. Besides, the SEALION 7 has witnessed an overwhelming response of over 1000 bookings within a month of announcing the car. Combined with our network expansion to over 40 dealers and counting, this response to the SEALION 7 furthers our vision for innovative and sustainable mobility in India."

The BYD SEALION 7 can accelerate from 0 - 100 km/h in 4.5 secs in the Performance trim, and the

Premium, does the same in 6.7 seconds. The BYD SEALION 7 Performance offers a range of 542 kms and the Premium can go 567 kms on a full charge (both range figures as per NEDC test). The Performance takes the power figure to 390 kW and torque to 690 Nm. The Premium variant makes 230 kW of power and 380 Nm of torque. The BYD SEALION 7 measures 4,830 mm in length and 2,930 mm of wheelbase ensuring solid design proportions and ample interior space.

Designed by BYD's Global Design Director, Wolfgang Egger, the BYD SEALION 7 features sleek, flowing lines, an aerodynamic profile, and a distinctive 'OCEAN X' front styling. The interior is equally impressive, with a 15.6-inch (39.62 cms) rotating touch-

screen, premium quilted Nappa leather seats, and 128-colour ambient lighting options. Additional highlights include a panoramic glassroof with electric sunshade, a heads-up display, and a quiet cabin designed to minimise noise, vibration, and harshness. With its impressive performance, advanced features, and luxurious design, the BYD SEALION 7 is poised to revolutionise the electric vehicle market in India.

The BYD SEALION 7 offers an unparalleled driving experience, combining comfort, entertainment, and innovative design. It allows for immersive audio with 12 Dynaudio speakers, personalised comfort with ventilated and heated seats, and a 50 W wireless phone charger.

The vehicle also houses an intelligent and effortless tailgate, and futuristic dynamic water drop tail lamps, 11 airbags as standard and Driver Fatigue Monitoring among other features.

BYD SEALION 7 is also equipped with VTOL (Vehicle to Load). This converts the BYD SEALION 7 into a portable power station allowing it to power any electronic device making it a boon in the outdoors or during emergencies.

**A Decade after Paris Agreement: WSDS 2025 to Propel Climate Actions**


**Pune (Voice news service):-** The 24th edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) will be held from March 5-7, 2025, in New Delhi. Organized annually by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), WSDS is a leading global event dedicated to advancing sustainable development and climate solutions.

As the only independently convened international summit on sustainable development and the environment based in the Global South, WSDS 2025 will focus on the theme 'Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions,' highlighting the need for collaborative efforts to address global climate challenges and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the world off-track in meeting SDGs and facing an urgent need to reduce emissions, the summit will focus on the power of partnerships to drive action.

The summit is expected to see the Opening Address by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

The Summit is taking place in a year which will mark a decade since the adoption of sustainable development goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. In addition to the inaugural and valedictory sessions, the Summit will include seven plenary sessions which are high-level sessions on themes such as sustainable finance, energy transitions, nature, climate commitments, resilience, innovations and mainstreaming sustainable development. The Summit will also see over 24 thematic tracks.

WSDS 2025 will bring together global leaders, policymakers, scientists, industry experts, and youth leaders to discuss messages for accelerating SDGs, including the role of partnerships, discussions and inputs as a build-up for COP30, leading

to COP33, which India has made bid to host, measures to ramp up ambitions on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and India taking the lead for the global south and set the global narrative in the current climate action scenario.

Addressing the media briefing, Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI, remarked, "Partnerships are the cornerstone of transformative climate action. At WSDS 2025, we aim to inspire collective efforts that transcend borders, advancing innovation and driving ambitious solutions for a sustainable future. WSDS 2025 will serve as a vital platform to forge these alliances and drive impactful change."

Mr Ajay Shankar, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, added, "With the world off-track on key sustainability goals, WSDS 2025 will serve as a catalyst for collaboration, bringing together diverse voices to co-create actionable pathways for a resilient planet."

"The Summit will drive ambition and action on three fronts: accelerating sustainable development, shaping key messages for COP30, and pushing for greater ambition in NDC 3.0 to ensure climate justice," underscored Dr Shailly Kedia, Curator, WSDS and Senior Fellow, TERI.

A key highlight will be the Sustainable Development Leadership Award (SDLA), which recognizes global leaders for contributions to sustainability, launches of knowledge documents, and the Act4Earth Manifesto, encapsulating the Summit's key takeaways and promoting year-round stakeholder engagement.

Instituted in 2001 as the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, WSDS has a legacy of over two decades as a premier global platform for sustainability discourse, mobilizing collective action through high-level ministerial sessions, plenaries, thematic tracks, and exhibitions on green innovations.

**Jeevansathi's Modern Matchmaking Report 2025 Unveils What Singles Really Want**

Pune: Jeevansathi's Modern Matchmaking Report 2025, based on insights from over 21,000 respondents, highlights shifting relationship preferences among Indian singles. The findings indicate that men prioritize love and romance, while women focus more on compatibility. The report also sheds light on evolving attitudes toward marriage, financial stability, and parental influence in partner selection.

According to the survey, 47% of men prioritize love and romance while choosing a partner, compared to 29% of women. Instead, 39% of women prioritize compatibility, while only 11% cite financial stability as a key factor while choosing a partner. Regional differences also emerged, with singles in Delhi and Mumbai valuing romance, whereas those in Bangalore emphasized compatibility. The report also found that 40% of singles are open to moving abroad for the right partner, reflecting a shift in traditional expectations. However, 70% of parents prefer their children to marry in India or eventually return. The trend varies across cities, with Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore respondents more open to marrying an NRI partner, while Delhi singles show a stronger preference for people settled in India.

Rohan Mathur, Chief Business Officer, Jeevansathi, said, "Indian singles today are reshaping relationship norms, prioritizing compatibility, and personal choice over traditional expectations. Jeevansathi's Modern Matchmaking Report 2025 reflects this evolving mind-set, highlighting a growing preference

for love that aligns with individual values rather than societal pressures. As a trusted matchmaking platform, we remain committed to empowering singles to help them make meaningful connections and informed decisions."

Singles under 27 believe 27-30 years is the ideal age to marry. However, older respondents and many parents said that marriage should happen when individuals find the right partner, indicating a more flexible approach to marital timelines. The survey highlights a growing expectation for financial equality in wedding expenses. About 72% of singles believe costs should be shared between partners, while only 17% think the one desiring a grand wedding should bear the cost. Parents also support this shift, signalling a move away from traditional financial burdens on one side of the family.

While parents remain trusted advisors, decision-making power now largely rests with singles. Only 4% of respondents stated that their parents would solely choose their life partner, reinforcing the increasing autonomy of individuals in marriage-related decisions. Attitudes toward astrology in matchmaking continue to evolve. One in three Delhi respondents still consider kundli matching essential, while Mumbai singles prioritize personal compatibility over astrological alignment. Modern relationships are about balance, finding love while staying true to personal goals and values. As these priorities evolve, Jeevansathi continues to help people find meaningful connections that fit their unique journey.