

## 'Beating the odds' in COVID-19



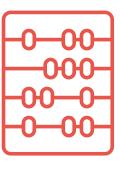
## **Objectives of the study**







Identify trends in consumer behavior driving innovation



Reflect on themes of innovation and opportunities for consumer brands

## **Key takeaways**

- Consumer brands have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by **innovating across four different** business axes – product, operations, marketing, and customer experience
- Agile companies changed their ingredient mix in response to consumer demand for health-oriented products
- Expansion into adjacent offerings and creation of new product categories has helped cater to changed consumer lifestyle
- Innovators followed their customers and implemented new touchpoints across channels
- Organizations narrowed their focus to core products and repurposed existing resources to "do more with less"
- Innovative companies **showed more empathy in their communications** and built brand equity
- First movers adopted digital technology and tools to create safe, seamless and, enjoyable experiences

## Four axes of innovation: product, operations, marketing, and customer experience



- Products for the season
- New category and consumer needs
- New 'capability' adjacencies
- New service formats: DIY kits
- Fill product whitespaces



- Re-designed Zero contact shopping
- 2 Virtual after-sales service



### **Operations**

- Tele-assisted shopping
- Collaborative selling
- Experience on wheels
- Direct to consumer channels
- Community selling
- **Process optimization**
- Become inclusive



- Solution selling: Product bundling
- Sharp, relevant communication
- Re-communicate the digital proposition

#### **Brands featured in the report**

































































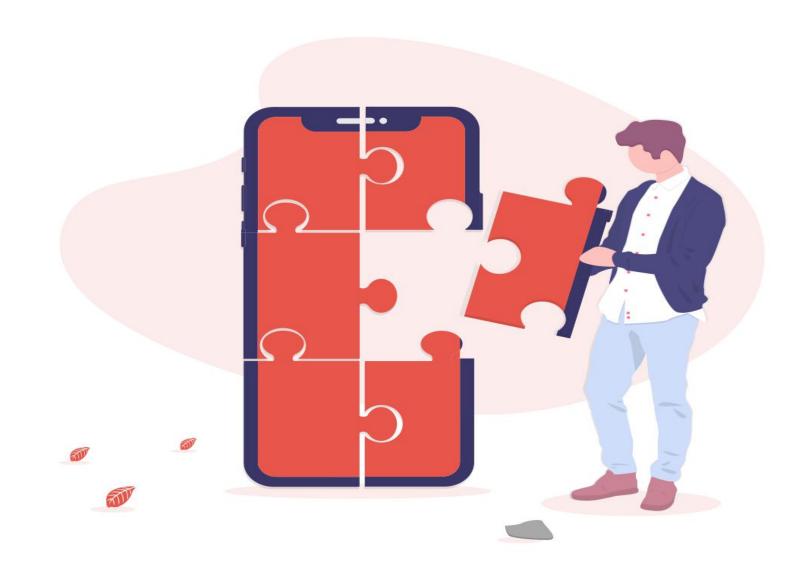








"A piece added or replaced to the product can change it's entire purpose"



Tweak ingredients to meet the demand for immunity boosting products

Create new product categories based on altered customer needs

Expand offerings to cater to changed customer lifestyle

## Products for the season: Packaged food companies using immunity-boosting ingredients to meet consumer need for healthier options

### Ready-to-drink



### **Health and wellness** supplements

### Breakfast mixes and cereals

















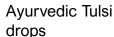


















Immuno bread with turmeric, ginger, etc



Smart drinks

milk







Turmeric protein powder \*\*



## Products for the season: Acquiring new customers and up-selling to existing to cover the immediate need to cover short term health risks



## Launched shorter-term, lower priced insurance policy for customers looking for COVID-19 protection



#### Other brands with similar offerings





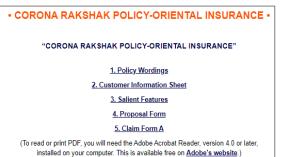






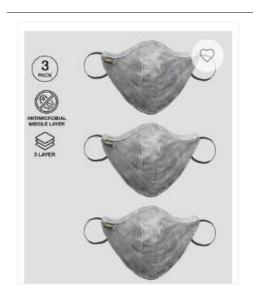






# New category formation from changing needs: Creating a new product category (masks in fashion) catering to a new customer need

#### **Medical / functional**







#### Formal wear





#### Active wear











### **Luxury / Designer**









# Expansion into 'capability' adjacencies: Expanding product lines and services based on altered consumer lifestyles







Added 2W rentals to cater to demand for private transportation

Magicpin started deliveries of groceries and food from local stores

Launched 'Awfis@Home' with a subscription model for WFH infrastructure







# New service formats: Food service brands are diversifying into alternate formats (DIY meal kits) to provide customers with the same experience Other brands with similar offerings

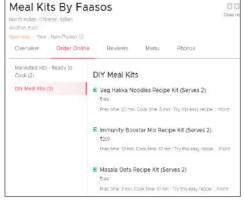
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2,000+

bottles sold within one month







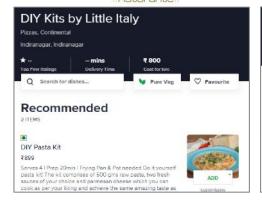
DIY Kits by Grow Fit

Q Search for dishes...

**DIY Meal Kits** 

DIY Vegetable Biryani Kit - x2

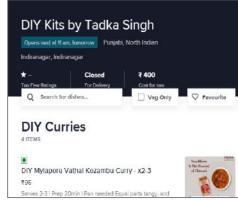
Serves 2 | Pressure Cooker needed | Veg Biryani Kit rich in













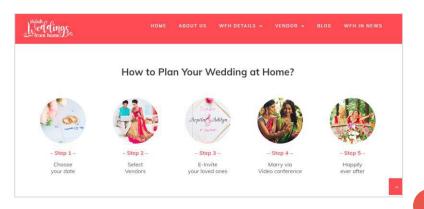


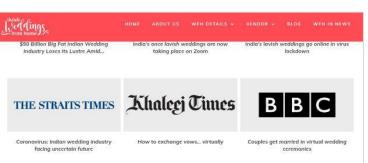


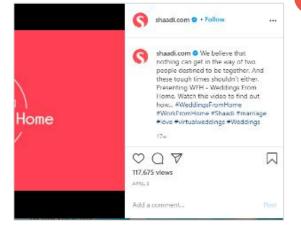
# New service formats: Out-of-the-box service delivery while also demonstrating empathy











- Free of cost service for arranging weddings virtually
- Innovative solution for people struggling to postpone their wedding
- 3 Users can select wedding related vendors, share e-invite and get a free wedding video
- Received widespread positive social and media coverage

## Fill product whitespaces: Digital media players have innovated rapidly



#### Launched a short video app within 7 days of ban on TikTok







28M+
downloads
In 45 days

### Other brands with similar offerings



Launched **Moj** 









Launched MX Taka Tak









Launched HotShots





## Fill product whitespaces: Brands rushed to fulfil demand for hygiene products

## **Op** asianpaints

Launched hand and surface sanitizers to consolidate portfolio in the hygiene space



#### Other brands with similar offerings







**Cipla**Health

Improving lives, every day



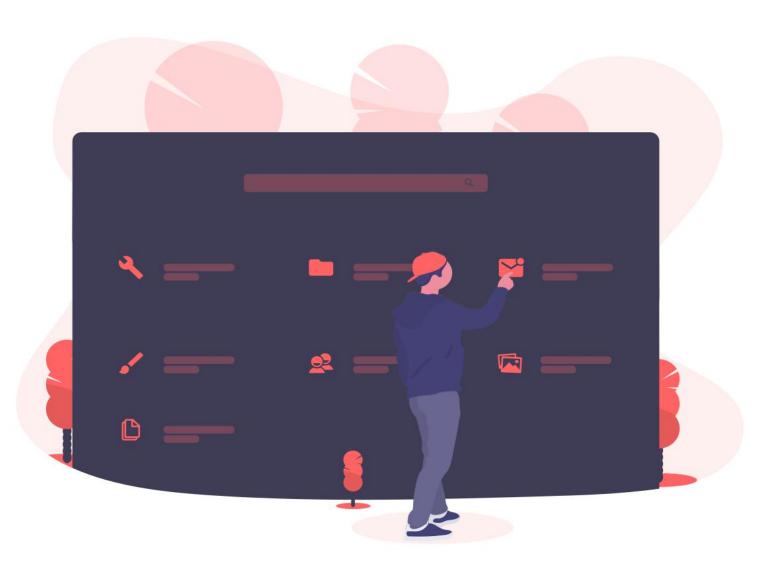


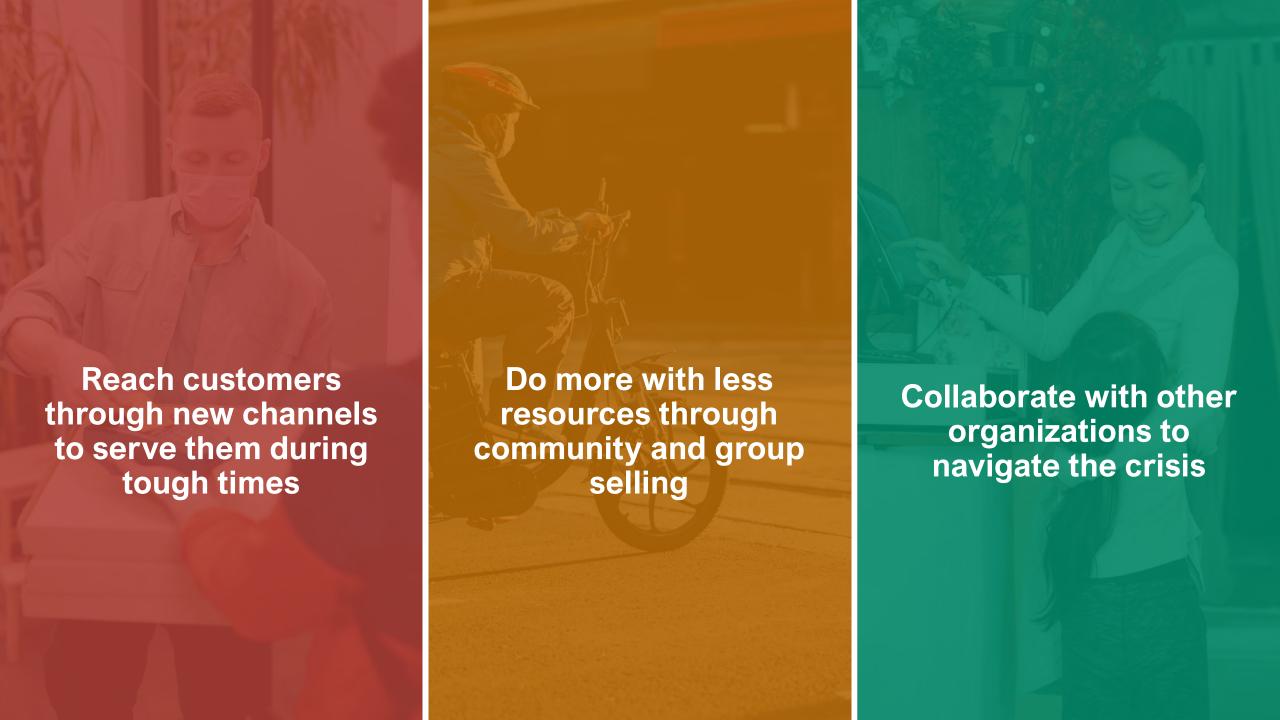






## "Opportunities don't happen, you create them"





## Tele-call assisted shopping: Telephonic shopping for the less tech-savvy





1 Omni-channel experience for the non-tech savvy

Salespeople at Big Bazaar turned into distant shopping assistants preparing orders

**250** 

stores operationalized

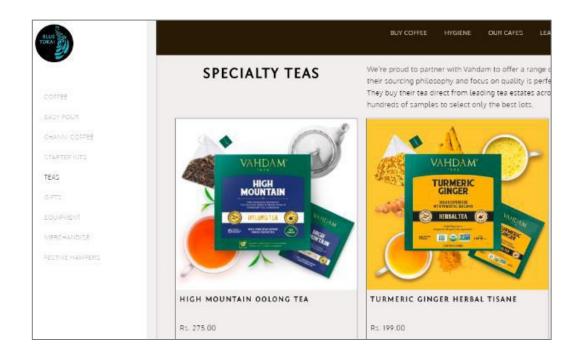
10,000

orders a day

## Collaborative selling: Creating reach and availability across channels through partnerships

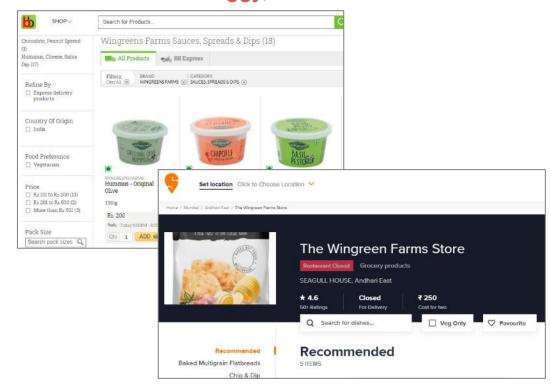


#### Partnership with Blue Tokai for sales on online platform





### Wingreens listed on hyperlocal players including Swiggy, Zomato



## Experience on wheels: Brands are taking the experience where the customers are



Mobile shops in customer neighborhood offering

doorstep trials and alteration through nearby stores

ITC employed food trucks to act as mobiles stores and reach customers in their apartment complexes

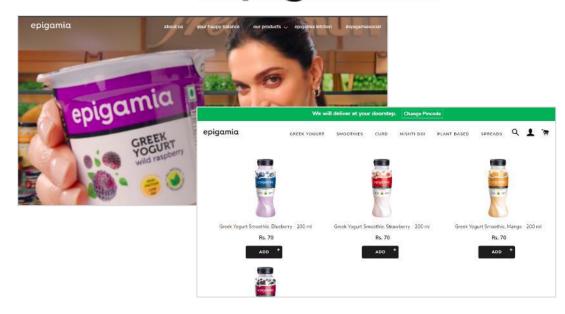




All your favourite ITC products delivered to your apartment

## Direct to consumer channels: Strengthening own channels to build loyalty

## epigamia



Other brands with similar offerings









- 1 Shift from MT retail to direct to consumer through own website
- 2 Focus on core, loyal customers
- 3 20-30% savings on commissions and retailer margins

20,000+

online orders since May

## **Community selling: Maintaining availability**



## Community selling through tie-ups with apartment complexes



Optimized visits to an apartment complex

3 - 4



~3

Visits a day

Visits a week



## Launched 'Trust Shop 2.0' for deliveries at residential complexes without any payments





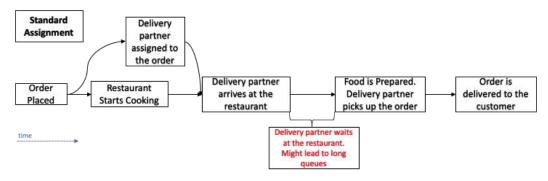


Trusts customers to make payment via e-wallets later

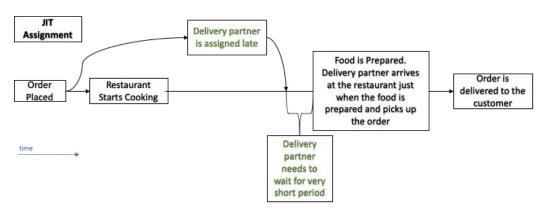
## Process optimization: Operational excellence for safety of customers, and delivery personnel



#### Old assignment system



#### **New assignment system**



- 1 Introduction of contactless deliveries
- 2 Switched to just-in-time model for assignment of delivery partners
- 3 Reduction in queues and crowding at restaurant partners

25%

Reduction in wait time for delivery partners

## Becoming inclusive: Providing access to services in remote locations



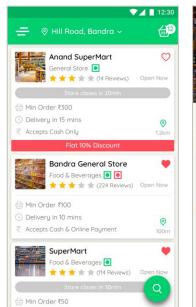
Facilitated withdrawal of DBT funds and cash through its network of banking correspondents

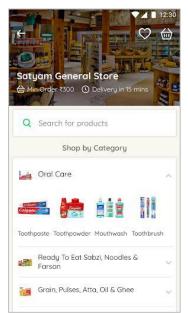


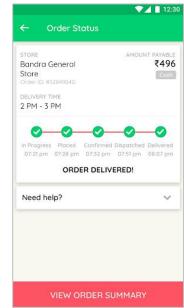
**8.5** lakh

Transactions per day

Expanded hyper local discovery and purchase platform 'BuyNearby' to pan-India operations





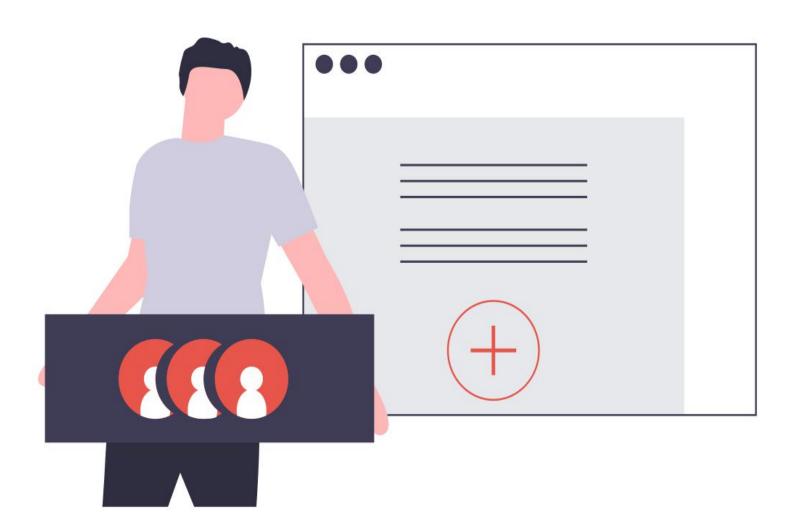


>2 lakh

kiranas equipped with online services



"Marketing is no longer about the stuff that you make, but about the stories you tell"



Change marketing messages based on consumer preferences

Tailor offerings and communication to address new customer segments



## Solution selling: Bundling similar products to target customer need holistically



Launched 'Immunity Kit' containing ayurvedic formulations like *Chyawanprash*, *Giloy Ghanvati* and others



#### Other brands with similar offerings













## Sharp, relevant communication: Renewed focus on health and hygiene benefits of products



Educating customers on the need for a hygienic mattress and *neem fresche* 

**Ensuring sanitized and safe installation at the doorstep** 

**#StaySafeWithSleepwell campaign** emphasizing health benefits of sleep







# Re-communicate the digital proposition: Leveraging conversational Al bots to focus on educating customers on digital products









- Conversational marketing on social media and digital channels
- 2 Dedicated campaign focusing on new internet banking features like account opening

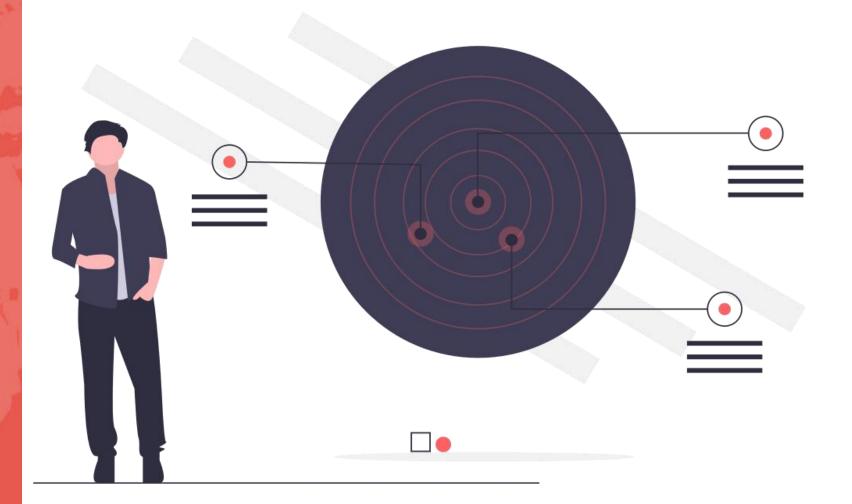
500k+

new conversations on messenger bot



Customer experience

"People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"



Adopt digital technology to create safe, seamless and, enjoyable shopping experiences

Enable after-sales service through channels and self-service channels

Build trust and confidence with the customer

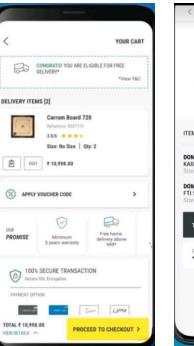
# Re-designed zero contact shopping experience: Allowing safe, technology enabled shopping experience without modifying customer behavior



"Scan & Go" app to ensure contactless shopping and payments in-store



Scan the product you like Review your purchase or want to buy summary and pay online



DECATHLON

Collect your baggage with digital receipt

"Reserve and Collect" allowing customers to purchase online and pick-up from the store without any delay

## **ZERO CONTACT** STORE PICK UP

AVOID THE LONG WAIT.
RESERVE & COLLECT WITHIN 2 HRS.



# Virtual after-sales service: Remote support, live chat option, technical assistance through call center and do-it-yourself (DIY) videos

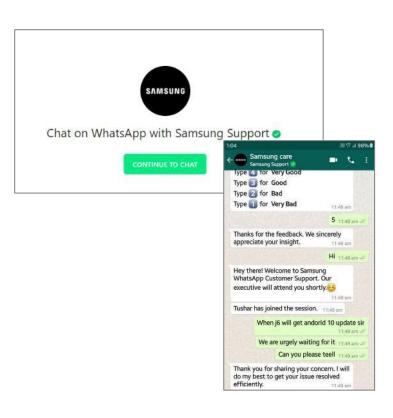
## Samsung

Panasonic

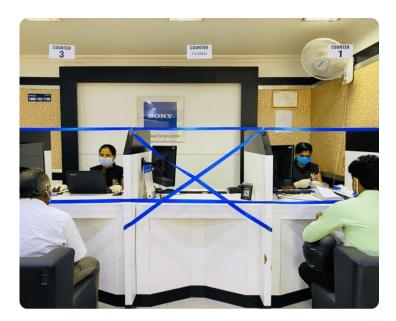


Whatsapp's live chat support to identify the issues and troubleshoot

DIY videos on social media for selfmaintenance of the appliances On-call technical assistance to avoid the limited crowd at service centers







## Closing thoughts: Four axes of innovation



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- New service formats: DIY kits
- Fill product whitespaces



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- Solution selling: Product bundling
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#### **Brands featured in the report**





































wingreens







































## Consumer and Retail

#### **Specific practitioner expertise**



Subrata Siddhanta
Practice Leader
Fashion and Apparels



Madhur Singhal
Practice Leader
Consumer and Retail



Samaresh Parida
Practice Leader
FMCG & Supply Chain
Management



Aryaman Tandon
Practice Leader
Ecommerce and Consumer
Internet



Nidhi Agarwal
Advisor
Consumer Goods and
Apparels



Sandeep Zutshi
Practice Member
Food & Beverages and
FMCG



Sahil Mehta
Practice Member
Internet brands and Omnicommerce



Sushman Das
Practice Member
Home and Furniture

## How we help our clients

We have partnered with India's largest consumer brands and have helped shape winning strategies in the continuously evolving retail landscape



**Digital Transformation** 

Enabling our partners navigate the tectonic digital transformation to deliver growth and operational efficiency



**Customer Insight & Brand Loyalty** 

Measuring and driving improvement in NPS scores and customer loyalty through detailed customer insights and proven frameworks



**Cost Transformation** 

Identifying sustainable opportunities for profit improvement by focusing on strategic cost management



**Growth and Scale Up** 

Growing fast and scaling up by optimizing client offerings, pricing, promotion, and distribution to the right target



**Profitability and unit economics** 

Developing unit economics for any new product / market launch and driving profitability by operational efficiency



**Process Re-engineering** 

Designing and implementing processes based on the principles of design thinking to enhance customer experience

## Connect with us - We will be happy to share perspectives



#### **Madhur Singhal**

Managing Director, Mumbai madhur.singhal@praxisga.com

M: +91 908 221 8254

#### **Aryaman Tandon**

Director, Gurugram
aryaman.tandon@praxisga.com

T: +91 11 4932 3564

#### **Sahil Mehta**

Consultant, Gurugram
Sahil.Mehta@praxisga.com

M: +91 970 215 5111

#### **Vaibhav Tamrakar**

Vice President, Bengaluru vaibhav.tamrakar@praxisga.com

M: +91 962 522 6697

#### Seema Karwa

Vice President, Gurgaon seema.karwa@pgalabs.com

M: +91 962 522 6696

### For media queries, please contact

### **Parul Singhh**

**Head, Marketing and Communications** 

marketing@praxisga.com

M: +91 782 794 4926

#### **Diksha Bhutani**

Lead, Marketing and Communications

marketing@praxisga.com

M: +91 989 999 7679

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