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British PM Keir Starmer To Make First Official Visit To India In October 2025

(Gns). British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is set to make his first official visit to India in the second week of October 2025, at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to government sources. The trip comes shortly after the two nations signed a historic Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in July 2025.

The agreement, concluded after more than three years of negotiations, aims to double bilateral trade between India and the UK to \$120 billion by 2030. The FTA is currently undergoing ratification in both countries and is

expected to come into effect in 2026.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is scheduled to visit India in the second



week of October 2025, following the signing of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in July 2025. During the visit, Starmer and Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi will discuss trade, technology, and defense, aiming to double bilateral trade to \$120 billion by 2030, with the FTA

expected to begin in 2026. Switch To Shorts British PM Keir Starmer To Make First Official Visit To India In October 2025 During his visit, PM Starmer is expected to hold

high-level discussions with PM Modi on trade, technology, and defence. The visit will also provide an opportunity for both leaders to review progress on the recently signed FTA and explore ways to strengthen economic and strategic cooperation.

This trip marks a significant milestone in India-UK relations, reflecting both nations' commitment to expanding bilateral trade, investment, and technological partnerships. It will also be PM Starmer's first visit to India since taking office in July last year, highlighting the growing importance of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Shri Amit Shah inaugurates the Santosh Mitra Square Durga Puja Pandal and the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre Durga Puja Pandal in Kolkata

(Gns). Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the Santosh Mitra Square Durga Puja Pandal and the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre Durga Puja Pandal in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal today. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah also offered prayers to Goddess Kali at the Kalighat Temple in Kolkata.

Addressing the inauguration program of the Santosh Mitra Square Durga Puja Pandal, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the nine-day festival of worship during Navratri has become popular not only in Bengal or India but across the world. He said that this great tradition of Bengal has been wit-

nessed and embraced with great joy by people world-

Union Home Minister said that the dream of a



wide. For nine days, every person in Bengal—whether a child, youth, or elderly—devotes themselves to the worship of Shakti. Shri Shah added that these nine days are very significant for Bengal.

WhatsApp Image 2025-09-26 at 17.23.25.jpeg

developed India envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through the development of Bengal must be fulfilled collectively by all of us. Shri Shah said that in the upcoming Assembly elections, with the blessings of Mother Durga, a government would

be formed in Bengal that will build a 'Sonar Bangla'.

WhatsApp Image 2025-09-26 at 17.23.24 (1).jpeg He added that Bengal should once again become safe, prosperous, peaceful, abundant in water and wealth, and that the Bengal envisioned by poet-guru Rabindranath Tagore should be realized.

Union Home Minister expressed grief over the death of more than 10 people due to the recent heavy rainfall in Kolkata. He said that we share in the sorrow of all the bereaved families.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation paid tribute on the birth anniversary of the great educationist and social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

MiG Is a Testimony of India-Russia Ties: Rajnath Singh At Its Farewell Event

(Gns). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday recalled the role played by MiG-21 during the Indian wars and said that it was like a family member.

While bidding farewell to the Russian-origin fighter jet, Singh hailed its contributions as he said that MiG-21 was a symbol of the strong relationship between India and Russia.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh bid farewell to the MiG-21 fighter jet at the Chandigarh Air Force Station, which was officially decommissioned by the Indian Air Force after 63 years of service, highlighting its contributions in numerous conflicts includ-

ing the 1971 war and Kargil conflict.

India's legendary com-



bat jet, the MiG-21, was officially decommissioned by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Friday at a grand ceremony at the Chandigarh Air Force

Station, concluding its remarkable 63 years of service that began with its

as a "tremendous strength" for India's armed forces throughout its history. "Its contribution has not been limited to a single event or a single war. From the war of 1971 to the Kargil conflict, or from the Balakot airstrike to Operation Sindoor, there has not been a moment when the MiG-21 has not provided tremendous strength to our armed forces," Singh stated.

He specifically remembered the MiG-21's important role during the 1971 war, citing its decisive attack on the Governor's House in Dhaka, which he said outlined the result of the war on that very day.

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President of India presents national geoscience awards

(Gns). The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, presented the National Geoscience Awards-2024 for outstanding contributions in the field of Geoscience at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre today (September 26, 2025).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that minerals have played a crucial role in the development of human civilization. Minerals found in the Earth's crust have provided the foundation for human life and shaped our trade and industry. The Stone Age, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age — the major stages of human civilization's development — are named after minerals. Industrialization would have been unimaginable

without minerals like iron and coal.

The President said that mining provides resources for economic development and creates huge employment opportunities. However, this industry also has numerous adverse effects, including the displacement of residents, deforestation, and pollution of air and water. She stated that all regulations must be strictly followed during the mining process to mitigate these adverse effects. Proper procedures must also be followed when closing mines to ensure that residents and wildlife are not harmed.

The President highlighted that our country is surrounded by oceans on three sides. The depths of these oceans hold reserves of many valuable minerals.



Geoscientists play a crucial role in utilizing these resources for the nation's development. She urged them to develop technologies that can harness the resources beneath the seafloor for the nation's

benefit while minimizing damage to marine biodiversity.

The President said the role of geoscientists isn't limited to mining. The impact of mining on geo-environmental sustainability also needs to be addressed by them. Technology needs to be developed and deployed to add value to mineral products and minimize wastage. This is crucial for sustainable mineral development. She was happy to note that the Ministry of Mines is committed to sustainability and innovation and is promoting AI, machine learning, and drone-based surveys in the mining industry. She also appreciated the steps taken by the Ministry for the recovery of valuable elements from mine tailings.

'Azadi' slogans in Uttarakhand paper leak protest create flutter; CM calls it a ploy to create unrest in state

(Gns). The ongoing agitation against the paper leak of the Uttarakhand Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UKSSSC) examination on September 21 took a surprising turn when protesters chanted slogans calling for freedom and banning the entry of Bhagwa into villages.

The incessant statewide agitation by unemployed youths, which began on September 21, surprised everyone when a woman speaker called for "azadi" slogans, fully supported by fellow agitators on Thursday night. The speaker, identified as Pushpa Rawat, addressing a large gathering of protesting youths and chanted slo-

gans including: "Hum sab kya chahte, azadi" (what do we all want, freedom), "Tum kyon nahi doge, azadi" (why won't you give freedom), "Tumhe deni padegi, azadi" (you will have to give freedom), "Hum chheen ke lenge, azadi" (we will snatch freedom), "Hum sadak se lenge, azadi" (we will claim freedom on the streets), "Sansad se lenge, azadi" (we will claim freedom from Parliament), and "Iss loot tantra se, azadi" (freedom from this system of loot).

As the video of Rawat chanting slogans for free-

dom went viral, it evoked mixed reactions from the public, even as Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami condemned the agitation, calling it a conspiracy to create unrest in the state. The Chief Minister said some people were deliberately trying to create unrest against his government under the guise of the paper leak issue, for which the government has already constituted an SIT for an intensive investigation. However, many people applauded her slogans, stating she did not commit any crime and was merely



demanding freedom from a corrupt and unjust system in the state.

"She did not say a single wrong word, irrespective of what the government thinks. Agitation and demand for freedom from a corrupt system in the state are the people's right. Question paper leaks in Uttarakhand have become the order of the day, despite the state government and the Chief Minister claiming strict enforcement of the law. Youths are on the streets demanding the quashing of the leaked question paper, but the state government is unwilling to accept. They have been forced to continue the protest," said Samar Bhandari, state convener of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Rs 10,000 handouts can't buy votes, Bihar women want dignity: Priyanka Gandhi

(Gns). Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, in a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, alleged that by transferring Rs 10,000 each to the bank accounts of 75 lakh women in Bihar, the 20-year-old NDA government is trying to buy votes days before the elections.

Addressing an election rally in Motihari, Bihar on Friday, she said the BJP-

JDU government

has never worked for the welfare of women, but with elections approaching, they are now pretending to be champions of women's rights.

"The women of Bihar will no longer fall for their tricks. They will drive these anti-women forces out of power," she added.



She further said, "No one is heard in Bihar, but as elections approach, all sorts of announcements are made. Narendra Modi imposed GST on everything, but

now that elections are near, they're offering GST relief. Today, the BJP is talking about giving Rs 10,000 to women, but why didn't

these people, who have been in power for 20 years, think about women before?"

"The question is, why are they waking up only before elections? The answer is simple, they want your vote. I say, if they give you Rs 10,000, take it, but vote for the country," she said.

She said handing out money is not a sign of respect. "Real respect will come when fair wages are given, when daughters feel safe,

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Editorial

Barriers to Entry

The United States has long been hailed as a land of opportunity ~ a paradise for those seeking prosperity. Migration has been a central force in shaping America's identity, economy, and innovation enabling it to become a global power. This article explores the historical roots of migration, the comparative contributions of migrants and native-born citizens, the evolution of the immigration policy, and the broader implications of a migrant-free America. Migration to the U.S. started before its independence.

Settlers from Europe laid the foundation for colonial America. Africans forcibly brought as slaves built its economy. The 19th century saw waves of Irish, German, Italian, and Chinese immigrants, each group contributing to infrastructure, agriculture, and industry. They brought both cultural enrichment and political tension, but the cumulative effect has been a dynamic, resilient society. According to the Migration Policy Institute, 45.2 per cent of recent immigrants (post-2010) hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 38 per cent of U.S.-born citizens.

Immigrants from countries like India, China, South Korea, and Nigeria consistently outperform native-born Americans in educational attainment. Though the Latin American immigrants tend to have lower formal education, they contribute through skilled trades and entrepreneurship. This educational diversity in the U.S. workforce, fills both high-tech and essential service roles. Migrants have been instrumental in building America in all spheres. Immigrants added \$2 trillion to GDP in 2016. They paid over \$500 billion in taxes in 2021, including \$76 billion from undocumented workers.

Twenty-two per cent of U.S. entrepreneurs are immigrants driving innovation and job creation. Over 45 per cent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children. Immigrants account for 22.8 per cent of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workers, driving research and technological advancement. Migrants dominate sectors like agriculture, hospitality, elder care, and domestic services ~ cleaners and cooks. Without them, these sectors would face crippling labour shortages and economic stagnation. Migrants are no longer just labourers ~ they are leaders too. They have served in Congress, state legislatures, and as mayors.

Notable figures include Rep. Pramila Jayapal, India and Rep. Ilhan Omar, Somalia. Immigrant professors and researchers lead top universities and labs. CEOs of Google (Sundar Pichai), Microsoft (Satya Nadella), and Adobe (Shantanu Narayen) are all immigrants. They make up 15.2 per cent of nurses and 26.5 per cent of doctors. Their presence in leadership roles reflects excellence. Migrants are the invisible engine powering the U.S. logistics sector. Their presence is not just helpful ~ it is indispensable. Nearly 20 per cent of U.S. truck drivers are immigrants ~ up to 47 per cent in states like California and Texas.

They are largely employed in warehousing, loading docks, and freight handling and at ports. Restricting migrant entry has severe consequences. The U.S. already faces a shortfall of over 80,000 truck drivers. New immigration policies could displace 50,000 to 100,000 drivers. Fewer drivers result in slower freight movement, delays, and higher costs for consumers. Americans can be reluctant to take on these roles due to long hours, low pay, and harsh conditions. The first major federal restriction on immigration came through the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882).

The Immigration Act of 1924 imposed quotas favouring Northern Europeans. Later, quotas were abolished opening doors to Asia, Africa, and Latin America by enacting the Immigration and Nationality Act (1965). The Immigration Reform and Control Act (1986) legalized millions of undocumented immigrants. Recent reforms (2025) have introduced steep visa fees and narrowed pathways for migrants. U.S. immigration policy has oscillated between openness and restriction. Early policies favoured European migrants.

Post-1965 reforms diversified the migrant pool. The 'Diversity Visa Lottery' also known as the 'DV Lottery' or 'Green Card Lottery' has promoted immigration from countries with historically low rates of migration to the United States. Recent reforms in 2025 include: Unimaginable hike of annual H-1B visa fee to \$100,000; abolition of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program for foreign graduates that allowed international students on F-1 visas to work temporarily in the United States after completing their studies, and wage-based visa selection, which will favour wealthier applicants.

These changes have made migration more expensive, exclusive, and uncertain ~ particularly for mid-level professionals and students. Many migrants rely on imports from their native countries ~ food, medicine, cultural goods, etc. Recent tariffs hike has led to their shortages and financial burden on migrants. An example is Indian textiles which face up to 50 per cent tariffs, hurting migrant-owned businesses. Kerala's seafood and spice exports have drastically reduced due to U.S. penalties, affecting migrant workers and families. Tariffs on Chinese technology components have raised costs for immigrant-run start-ups.

Immigrant-owned businesses are a vital part of the U.S. economy ~ creating jobs, driving innovation, and contributing billions in revenue. This is another major contribution of immigrants to the American society. This can lead to reverse migration. Recent reforms have led to a projected decline in net immigration, with estimates suggesting the U.S. may experience negative net migration for the first time in decades (Brookings Institute).

Historically, countries like India, China, and Nigeria suffered from "brain drain" of highly educated professionals to the U.S. However, recent U.S. restrictions have reversed this trend. Skilled migrants are returning home, bringing back advanced education and training from U.S. institutions, entrepreneurial experience and global networks, as well as exposure to cutting-edge technologies and research. India's technology hubs such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad, have seen a surge in start-ups founded by returnees, many of whom were previously employed in Silicon Valley (NASSCOM, 2024). Returnees are revitalising local industries by introducing best practices from U.S. companies and creating jobs through new ventures. China's semiconductor sector has benefited from engineers returning after facing visa hurdles in the U.S., accelerating domestic innovation, and reducing reliance on American firms, according to a report in the South China Morning Post.

H1B changes alone can't secure India's AI Future

(Gns).

One of the most contentious policies of the Trump administration was just announced: a \$100,000 fee to apply for an H1B visa. Naturally, the announcement unsettled the Indian diaspora and many prospective Green Card applicants in India, since over 70 per cent of H1B visa holders are Indian, with many of the brightest among them likely contributing to the development of foreign AI systems and large language model companies.

The White House promptly reassured existing H1B visa holders, though, by making it clear that the \$100,000 fee would only be charged to new applicants, not to those who already had one. Since then, the action has generated discussion about its possible advantages and disadvantages for national interests, with some applauding it as a step to stop the long-standing "brain drain" phenomenon. While preventing brain drain is directly relevant to the global AI race, retaining domestic talent alone does not fully address India's AI challenges.

From an objective standpoint, Trump's decision to significantly raise H1B visa costs will inadvertently slow down the flow of some of India's most talented individuals to the West,

something India has long failed to stop. The large immigration to the United States was driven because of what America could provide but India was unable to ~merit recognition, better infrastructure, better education, and cleaner air. The numbers speak for themselves. Consider for instance that at the national level, India's Central Sector Scheme of Scholarships for College and University Students awards a maximum of 82,000 scholarships annually for graduate and postgraduate studies.

In contrast, the United States awards more than 1.7 million private scholarships and fellowships annually, valued at over \$7.4 billion as of 2020. Now consider infrastructure, education, and pollution: In the 2024 infrastructure rankings by the World Population Review, the U.S. was ranked seventh, while India ranked 28th. According to the latest QS World University Rankings, the US has 192 ranked universities, including 44 in the top 100, whereas India has only 54 ranked universities and none in the top 100. Last year, India's capital was ranked the most polluted city in the world.

Collectively, these factors have incentivized India's most talented workers to contribute to the U.S. economy, rather than to India's own development.



the right human resources ~ the loss of India's brightest minds becomes even more pressing. Naturally, a lack of talent could further disadvantage India, which was already far behind in the global AI race.

Inadvertently, Trump's move could allow India to keep more of its skilled workforce, which could lead to a chance to take a more active role in the AI race. However, this must definitely not invite unwarranted optimism as India's capacity to take full advantage of this opportunity is still constrained by the same elements that drove talented people to relocate to the United States: infrastructure, funding for research, and a favourable business environment. To make the point clear, one

India invest much in research and development. The private sector makes significant investments in countries that have successfully developed AI systems, but the government cannot be held entirely responsible. As a percentage of GDP, India's R&D spending has stayed between 0.6 and 0.7 per cent, which is less than the global average and less than that of nations like the U.S., China, and South Korea. Furthermore, only roughly 36 per cent of India's total R&D expenditure comes from the private sector, compared to over 70 per cent in these other countries. Low R&D investment in India means that retaining talented individuals does not automatically translate into the creation

must first realize that creating AI systems necessitates a large investment in R&D.

Regretfully, neither the public nor private sector of

of AI systems.

The fact that AI innovations typically originate from start-up ecosystems that promote entrepreneurship is another crucial point. India has yet to establish such an environment. For instance, take the corporate tax system in both countries: The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 established the 21 per cent flat rate in the United States. All corporate income brackets are subject to the same rate. In contrast, corporate taxes in India range from 25 to 30 per cent plus surcharges. Businesses are further burdened by the intricacy and ambiguity of India's tax laws, especially smaller ones that cannot afford professional advice. Delays and a lack of transparency in tax administration are examples of inefficiencies that can increase mistrust and encourage tax evasion.

The favourable business climate in California undoubtedly aided the Indian talent who migrated there and established their businesses, but it looks unlikely that India would provide similar opportunities for some time to come. Another possible effect of Trump's decision is that India could experience a temporary decline in wages instead of seeing an increase in domestic AI job creation. This is because workers who may have

migrated to the United States will now stay here, boosting competition in terms of both quantity and calibre. The fact that AI is now performing tasks like homework and assignments that are typically used to indicate proficiency, undermining the legitimacy of degrees and causing information asymmetry, complicates this situation.

Short-term wage pressure is likely to continue, and it might only subside if some of this talent moves abroad, perhaps to Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, or Germany, where there may be a greater influx of Indian professionals. Ultimately, retaining talent within India alone will not be sufficient. The country will continue to face the persistent challenges that have long been part of public discourse, and these issues may now become even more pressing. It is time for policymakers to decide how best to leverage the current situation. The problems are well understood, and many of the potential solutions are already clear, including higher R&D spending, greater domestic AI job creation, easier business conditions, and broader improvements in India's standard of living, among others. Therefore, what is now required is decisive action.

waterlogged road after heavy rainfall in Kolkata, West Bengal

(Gns).

Kolkata has once again found itself submerged ~ literally and figuratively ~ beneath a torrent of rain and the weight of its own urban vulnerabilities. In less than a day, more than 250 millimetres of rain transformed roads into streams, disrupted train services, and left entire neighbourhoods wading through knee-deep water.

At least 10 lives were lost, most to electrocution, a grim reminder that the city's ageing electrical grid and fragile drainage systems are ill-equipped to handle the new extremes of weather. The timing could not be crueller. The floods struck days before Durga Puja, the city's most beloved festival, when elaborate temporary pandals come up in every

locality and millions of residents take to the streets in celebration.

Many of these pandals now sit waterlogged, threatening not just the festivities but the incomes of thousands of artisans, electricians, decorators, and small traders who depend on the season for their livelihood, and a plethora of corporates who set aside a large chunk of their budgets for promotional activities at this time of the year. What should have been a time of colour and music has turned into a scramble for dry ground and basic safety. This is not merely an unfortunate accident of nature.

It is the consequence of decades of neglect. Kolkata's drainage infrastructure was designed for a different century, when

rainfall patterns were more predictable and population pressure less intense. Wetlands paved over by rapacious builders, clogged canals, and unplanned construction, have left the



city incapable of absorbing sudden downpours. Each year the monsoon exposes these structural weaknesses,

eventually drain and recover, poorer wards remain submerged for days, turning a natural disaster into a

es, yet serious investments in climate-resilient urban planning remain patchy and politically fraught.

The crisis also exposes a deeper inequity ~ while upscale neighbourhoods

prolonged humanitarian emergency for the most vulnerable. The larger warning is unmistakable. Climate scientists have long cautioned that extreme rain events will become more frequent and more intense as the planet warms. Kolkata's latest deluge is not a freak occurrence but a preview of a wetter, harsher future. The cost of inaction is measured not just in property damage or festival disruption but in human lives and long-term economic loss. Relief operations ~ draining waterlogged streets, restoring transport links, compensating bereaved families ~ are essential and urgent.

But they cannot substitute for systemic change. The city needs modern drainage networks,

Geopolitical Landscape

underscores the erosion of old assumptions about West Asian security. As Riyadh experiments with multi-vector diplomacy, India must recognise that economic leverage alone cannot shield its interests from the ripple effects of evolving Gulf rivalries. Yet, the move is not primarily about India. Saudi Arabia's leadership is diversifying security partnerships as confidence in the American defence umbrella wanes. Rising tensions with Iran, an unpredictable Israel, and a West Asia unsettled by new conflicts have driven Riyadh to hedge its bets.

This development also

matic barbs between India and Pakistan. It comes just as India has cultivated deep economic and strategic ties with Saudi Arabia, including major energy contracts and investment corridors. Delhi has worked hard to separate its partnership with Riyadh from the volatility of its Pakistan policy, but a treaty that frames Pakistani security as a Saudi concern narrows the diplomatic space. It suggests that India's economic weight alone may not guarantee strategic restraint from its Gulf partners.

The pact follows a tense year of clashes and diplo-

Islamabad gains a powerful external backer willing to underwrite its military relevance. For Riyadh, the deal offers access to Pakistan's experienced army, its ready manpower, and ~ more subtly ~ its nuclear status as a form of insurance against regional adversaries. The arrangement extends a relationship that has included Pakistani troop deployments, training missions and covert support for decades, but it now gives that history a sharper edge. For New Delhi, the timing is unsettling.

The pact follows a tense year of clashes and diplo-

Critical Enhancement

While the government has rolled out infrastructure for healthcare that reaches the entire country, in several parts of the country its actual reach in remote villages continues to be unsatisfactory. Recognizing this reality, the government too has been exploring various options of improving the situation from time to time. Several approaches and models created by teams of doctors and other health professionals have been tried in this context, including the widely appreciated work of several renowned doctors.

One such widely discussed health initiative is

that of a voluntary organization Basic Healthcare Services (BHS). This initiative, which can be said to be based on the AMRIT approach or AMRIT clinics, started in 2012 in south Rajasthan. Over the last 13 years or so its work has steadily consolidated and although it continues to struggle with challenges old and new, its achievements resulting in saving thousands of lives have been highly appreciated. Dr. Pavitra Mohan, co-founder and director of BHS had earlier led the child health programme of UNICEF in India. He emphasizes three aspects

of any such initiative. Firstly, the health needs of the poorest should be prioritized, or the 'last person' should get the 'first priority'.

Secondly, the initiative should be based on recognizing the right to health of all people. Thirdly, such an initiative should be highly participative so that the community's real and priority needs can be properly understood by all those involved in the health initiative. Dr Sanjana Mohan, another co-founder, (see photograph) emphasize that in such people-based health initiatives dignity and trust are very important. The success of such initia-

tives, she says, should be seen more in terms of their more durable and lasting impacts, not just temporary gains.

BHS has six clinics in Udaipur and Salumbur districts, most of these in the midst of villages with tribal communities constituting most of the population, with high levels of poverty, malnutrition, disease burden and migrant labour. After considerable discussion it was decided that clinics would be led by nurses, helped by the weekly visit of one or two physicians and round ~ the ~ clock phone consultations with BHS doctors. Then Nurses ,

with adequate qualifications improved by BHS training, are selected, broadly speaking , from with the communities with which they work. Apart from attending to patients in day clinics, nurses are also available for night-time emergencies.

They can consult BHS doctors any time on phone or by video calls. They refer patients with more serious problems to hospitals in Udaipur where a BHS staffer is specially posted to provide help to any such patient whenever this is needed, particular at the initial stage of hospital admission. Nurses are

assisted at the clinic and in villages by health workers. Village-based female health workers called 'health ray' or swasthya kiran play a particularly important role.

Thus, with four nurses providing the base, a clinic functions effectively with support from doctors on the one hand and female and male health workers on the other hand, helped further by village advisory committees, peer groups and partner organizations. There are also phulwari or nutrition and play centres for small children in many villages.

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IICA Forms Core Working Group (CWG) on Corporate Affairs and ESG under the Chairmanship of DG, IICA

CWG to review Corporate Disclosures, Board-Level ESG Oversight and Global Best Practices (Gns).

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has constituted a Core Working Group (CWG) on Corporate Affairs and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) under the Chairmanship of Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, IICA. This was done in pursuance of the directions of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). The Group has been formed to facilitate structured consultation and decision-making on matters relating to corporate disclosures and governance in alignment with global practices and national priorities.

The terms of reference of the CWG include examination of disclosure provisions under the Companies Act, 2013, review of inter-

stakeholder engagement frameworks, and enabling measures for innovation, financing and impact assessment of ESG initia-

Mukundan, Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals will serve as Senior Expert Advisor. Members include Senior Leaders from IOCL; NTPC Ltd.; Schneider; Infosys Ltd.; Reserve Bank Information Technology Ltd.; Aditya Birla Group, Reliance Industries, Tata Consumer Products, ONGC, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Tata Steel; Consultancy firms; Industry Experts & Academicians from IIM Bangalore and IICA.

Prof. Garima Dadhich, Head, School of Business Environment (SBE), IICA, will serve as the Member-Convenor. The School of Business Environment shall function as the Secretariat to the Group and provide institutional and technical support.



national best practices, recommendations for board-level ESG oversight, convergence of Indian norms with global standards,

tives. The CWG is chaired by Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, IICA. Shri R.

Municipal corporation launched cleanliness campaign in Aurangabad under Babu's plan

Mathura. Under Babu's ambitious scheme Swachh Bharat Mission, "Swachhata Hi Seva" 156 House Cleanliness Campaign Program, Municipal Corporation Mathura-Vrindavan Municipal Commissioner Jag Pravesh, Assistant Municipal Commissioner Kalpana Chauhan Nature Green Company Project Manager Abhilash Sangwan and Operation Incharge Abhishek Bajpai with his teamA cleanliness drive was carried out in 28 and 10 Aurangabad. During this time the surrounding area was cleaned and freed from dirt. Both sides were cleaned on the main road. Kachra was freed. The team also gave a message towards cleanliness by



Municipal Commissioner Jag Pravesh and Assistant Municipal Commissioner Kalpana Chauhan instructing subordinates

making people aware. The team is constantly calling

for not dirt by going among the people. Project Manager of Nature Green Company Abhilash Sangwan has requested the residents of the city to give garbage to the garbage and keep garbage in two separate boxes, keep wet garbage in green box and dry garbage in blue box. Do not put garbage in roads and parkou. Single should not use it plastic, cooperate with the Municipal Corporation. The city commissioner should cooperate with us in the cleanliness system of the city. The city is yours. A day before this, the area was cleaned by running a cleanliness drive in Birla Temple and Chamunda Devi temple area.

Illegal soil mining raided in Chhata, Chhata

Mining officer seized two tractor trolley and JCB Mathura. On Wednesday, the mining department raided the illegal mining in the fields in Naugaon, Chhata Kotwali, took action and seized two trolley tractors a JCB machine. On getting information about mining, the mining officer reached the spot and conducted this raid. In the raid, two tractor trolleys and one JCB were seized and taken to the



Tractor trolley seized by mining officer

police station. Mining Inspector Akshay Kumar said that the soil was illegally mined by mining mafia from the fields in Naugaon. Someone informed the officer of the mining department about

this. The mining officer reached Naugaon with the team and saw the illegal mining of soil being done from the farm. The miners came to know about the arrival of the team. The miners fled from there. The mining team seized two tractor trolleys and a JCB from there. The team took all three vehicles to Kotwali Chhata. In this case, FIR is being prepared against illegal soil mining.

Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025: Up to 50% off on Alexa-enabled Echo smart speakers, Fire TV devices, and Kindle

Lucknow, 26 Sep 2025 : Amazon's Great Indian Festival is now live with exciting offers on Echo smart speakers and displays with Alexa, Alexa smart home combos, Fire TV streaming sticks, smart TVs with Fire TV built-in, and the all-new Kindle Paperwhite. Whether it's getting started on your smart home journey or elevating your TV streaming experience, you can enjoy savings across these devices during the ongoing shopping event.

Choose smarter living experiences with Alexa Upgrade your home into

Kids with Teddy Sleeve and Alexa Activity Kit. Get it for ₹3,499

Echo Show 8 (2nd Generation). Get it for ₹8,999



a smarter, more connected space with Alexa-enabled Echo smart speakers and smart displays, and Alexa smart home combos. From playing music, controlling compatible smart lights, setting alarms and reminders, and checking the weather, to keeping the little ones engaged with voice-first activities or their favourite nursery rhymes—Alexa helps make everyday tasks simple, convenient, and fun.

Offers you can avail during Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025:

- Flat 54% off on Echo (4th Generation) Combo with Wipro Simple Setup 9W LED Smart Bulb. Get it for ₹5,548
- Flat 51% off on Echo Pop Combo with Wipro Simple Setup 9W LED Smart Bulb. Get it for ₹3,499
- Flat 50% off on Echo (4th Generation). Get it for ₹5,000
- Flat 41% off on Echo Pop. Get it for ₹2,949
- Flat 19% off on Echo Dot (5th Generation). Get it for ₹4,449
- Flat 17% off on Echo Spot. Get it for ₹7,449
- Flat ₹5,000 off on

“River conservation is being pursued through short-, mid-, and long-term plans”. Shri C.R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti

(Gns). The 6th edition of Nadi Utsav, organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, was inaugurated by the Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil, today at IGNCA, Janpath, New Delhi. The inaugural session was also graced by Shri Gaurang Das, Spiritual Leader, ISKCON; Sadhvi Vishudhanand Bharti Thakur; Shri Rambahadur Rai, President, IGNCA; and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA.

Celebrating rivers as vital ecological lifelines and cultural reservoirs, the festival opened to an enthusiastic gathering of scholars, artists, practitioners, and students. In his inaugural address, Shri C.R. Patil asserted the significance of rivers in sustaining commu-

nities and shaping India's cultural ethos. He emphasised the need for collec-

term, mid-term, and long-term-towards river conservation. Under the leader-



tive responsibility in preserving rivers for future generations. He remarked, "India is a land of rivers. The world's finest river, the Ganga, flows in India. It is our duty not to pollute our rivers." He further stated that work is being carried out at three levels- short-

ship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, significant efforts are being undertaken through Water Vision@2047.

Highlighting the cultural significance of rivers, he said that rivers are not merely resources but the very current of our emo-

tions and culture. He cautioned that human intervention has caused immense damage to rivers, and their conservation is a shared responsibility. He also commended IGNCA for the continued organisation of Nadi Utsav.

On this occasion, Shri Gaurang Das said that rivers are not merely streams of water but symbols of strength, energy, and the constant progress of life. Just like the Ganga which finds its way from Gangotri to the Bay of Bengal despite numerous obstacles, we too must maintain hope and direction in the face of life's adversities. He added that rivers are the flow of our culture and sensibility, teaching us that challenges can be transformed into opportunities through energy and hope.

Awareness program under Mission Shakti 5.0 'on the instructions of DM, Nandani became Principal for one day

Gave information about legal rights and government schemes to women

Mathura. An important awareness program was organized in the district under the direction of District Magistrate Mathura today under the ambitious campaign 'Mission Shakti 5.0', the Uttar Pradesh government. The team of Women's Welfare Department organized this program with the aim of empowering girls, teachers and local women at Maa Resham Devi Inter College, Mathura. At the same time, according to the instructions of the government and department, on September 26, under the special campaign of Nari Shakti 5.0 from September 25 (till 30 September 2025),



Nandani sitting on the chair of Principal and operating the school

the school was conducted by making the school a day Principal of the school, Nandani, class 10, a day.

The main objective of the program was to make women aware of their legal rights and to give detailed information about various welfare schemes run by the state and central government. The department team informed women

about important schemes related to security, education, health and self - employment like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', 'Chief Minister Kanya Sumangla Yojana', 'Women Help Line 181', 'UP 112', and 'One Stop Center'.

On the occasion, team members openly discussed sensitive topics such as domestic violence, gender

equality and sexual harassment and emphasized the importance of helpline numbers available to get immediate assistance in the event of crisis. He inspired women to speak fearlessly and raise their voice for their rights. The Principal of the school appreciated this initiative and said that such programs are very important towards increasing confidence in women and making them self -sufficient. The District Magistrate has directed that this awareness campaign under 'Mission Shakti 5.0' will continue in other educational institutions and rural areas of the district, so that every woman can reach the message of security and respect.

FICCI FLO Organizes Workshop on Organic Skincare

Lucknow. FICCI FLO Lucknow Chapter today organized an informative and inspiring session with

vatives, and with a shelf life of no more than one year. Regarding diet, she emphasized the need to

clean beauty space in India but also earned several prestigious awards, including Best D2C Brand of the

was organized with a focus on enlightening perspectives on entrepreneurship, sustainability, and innova-



Megha Asher, Co-Founder and COO of Juicy Chemistry, India's first Cosmos/ECOCERT-certified organic skincare brand, at Hotel Clarks Avadh.

Addressing the event, Megha emphasized the need to be cautious about today's beauty products, which often contain preservatives and chemicals. Instead, we should choose products made from natural ingredients, without preser-

minimize dairy products. During the session, Megha shared her journey of passion, perseverance, and purpose—from her early career in media and fashion to co-founding Juicy Chemistry, a brand that has redefined beauty standards with its commitment to organic, sustainable, and performance-driven formulations. Under her leadership, the brand has not only pioneered the

Year and Superstar Startup Award.

Her story resonated deeply with the audience, demonstrating how resilience, clarity of vision, and adherence to the values of authenticity, sustainability, and ethical practices can create global impact.

Speaking about the event, Vandita Agarwal, Chairperson of FICCI FLO Lucknow Chapter, explained that the event

tion. Our endeavor is to inspire FLO members to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams with determination. The event was moderated by Jyoti Dewan, and the conversation was moderated by Dr. Priyanka Tandon.

More than 50 FLO members, including Simran Sahni, Devanshi Seth, Tulika Kapoor, and Shilpa Gupta, were present on the occasion.

Russia-India biz dialogue unlocks new avenues at UPITS 2025

(Gns). A business-to-business (B2B) meeting on the Russia-India Business Dialogue was successfully convened here today on the sidelines of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025 at India Expo Mart.

The session was chaired by Alok Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Infrastructure and Industrial Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and co-chaired by Shashank Chaudhary, Additional CEO, Invest UP.

The dialogue witnessed robust participation from over 85 companies, facilitating more than 240 targeted B2B meetings within a span of just three hours.

Thirty Russian companies representing a wide spectrum of sectors engaged

Energy, Utilities & Infrastructure, FMCG, IT & Digital Solutions,



with the Indian counterparts to explore trade and investment opportunities, forge strategic partnerships, and deepen bilateral cooperation.

Key sectors represented included Manufacturing (Industrial & Engineering),

Chemicals & Cosmetics, Packaging, Medicine & Medical Equipment, Electronic Components & Transmission, Food Processing & Agriculture, Tourism, Trade & Wholesale Distribution, and Animal Husbandry.

The discussions emphasized synergies in areas of mutual interest and highlighted Uttar Pradesh's emergence as a dynamic hub for international collaboration.

Russian investors expressed keen interest in the state's expanding industrial base, proactive governance, and sector-specific incentives.

The event reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to strengthen economic ties and unlock new avenues for sustainable growth. It also showcased Uttar Pradesh's strategic positioning as a gateway for global partnerships, backed by world-class infrastructure and investor-friendly policies.