

Trump spoke to Putin on Ukraine issue: US media

Chennai Nov 11 2024: Donald Trump, who won the US presidential election, reportedly spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, the Washington Post claimed citing sources.

On Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the readiness for contacts with Trump remained, which was emphasised by Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, but there were no specifics.

There was no official confirmation of Washington Post's report.

The newspaper claimed that Trump had called for not escalating the conflict in Ukraine and expressed interest in subsequent conversations to discuss a speedy resolution to the Ukrainian conflict.

Trump has privately signalled that he would support a peace deal in which Russia would retain some territories,

the publication claimed.

Earlier, Trump's senior adviser and Republican Party strategist Bryan Lanza said that the United States under the new Trump administration would not support Kyiv in its desire to "return Crimea" - this is an unrealistic position, since Crimea is lost to Ukraine, and Washington's priority would be to end the conflict.

Crimea became a Russian region in



March 2014 following a referendum held after the coup in Ukraine. In the referendum, 96.77% of voters in Crimea and 95.6% in Sevastopol voted to join Russia. Ukraine still considers Crimea to be its temporarily occupied territory, and

Western countries supporting Kiev on this issue. The Russian leadership has repeatedly stated that the residents of Crimea had voted to reunite with Russia democratically, in full compliance with international law and

the UN Charter.

According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Crimea issue is "closed once and for all". Earlier, the Wall Street Journal reported citing sources that Trump's team had allegedly proposed freezing the conflict in Ukraine, creating a demilitarised zone along the front line, and new arms supplies in exchange for Kyiv's promise not to join NATO temporarily. The publication did not

specify who exactly would maintain security in the demilitarised zone, but one of its sources ruled out that it could be the US military or UN peacekeepers.

In June, Russian President Vladimir Putin put forward initiatives for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ukraine: Moscow will immediately cease fire and declare its readiness for negotiations after the withdrawal of

Ukrainian troops from the territory of new regions of Russia.

In addition, the Russian leader added, Kyiv must declare its renunciation of its intentions to join NATO, it must also carry out demilitarisation and denazification, and also adopt a neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status.

Putin also mentioned the lifting of sanctions against Russia in this context.

Jual Oram takes stock of preparations at Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebration at Jamui ahead of PM Modi's Visit

Chennai Nov 11 2024: Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram arrived in Jamui, ahead of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's much-anticipated visit for the celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. The Union Minister emphasized the significant contributions made by the current government under the leadership of PM Modi in uplifting and respecting tribal communities across the country.



Shri Jual Oram highlighted the establishment of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999 as a milestone for tribal welfare. He praised the Modi government's initiatives, particularly the declaration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021 to honour the legacy of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda. This day is now celebrated nationwide to recognize the invaluable contributions of India's tribal communities.

Preparations Underway for Prime Minister's Visit

Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive in Jamui on November 15, 2024, to participate in the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations in Bhalpur village, located in the Khaira block of Jamui district. During the event, the Prime Minister will inaugurate projects worth thousands of crores aimed at empowering tribal communities, reflecting the government's commitment to tribal welfare and development.

Union Minister Jual Oram conducted a site visit to Bhalpur ahead of the Prime Minister's arrival, reviewing the preparations and giving necessary instructions to ensure a successful event. Extensive arrangements are in progress, including the

construction of roads, helipads, barricading, and the installation of German hangar tents. The venue is being meticulously prepared, reflecting the importance of this national celebration.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas: A National Celebration

Union Minister Oram underscored the significance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, which will be celebrated across 27 States and Union Territories. He mentioned that President Smt Droupadi Murmu will pay tribute to the statue of Birsa Munda in Parliament, while PM will lead the main event in Jamui. Various Chief Ministers, Governors, and Cabinet ministers will also participate in celebrations nationwide, making this a truly national occasion.

"Prime Minister Modi has ensured that the contributions of tribal communities are acknowledged at the highest levels. It was under his leadership that the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda was declared as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, a commendable step in recognizing tribal history and heritage," said Union Minister Shri Jual Oram.

The Union Minister also recalled the visit of

the Prime Minister last year to the ancestral village of Birsa Munda in Ulihatu, Jharkhand, making him the first Prime Minister to pay homage at the birthplace of the legendary tribal leader. This year's main event in Jamui marks another step in the government's ongoing efforts to honour the legacy of Birsa Munda and the contributions of the tribal communities.

Leaders to Join the Grand Celebration

The event in Jamui will witness the presence of key dignitaries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar, and several Union and State MPs, MLAs, and local leaders are also expected to attend, ensuring a grand and inclusive celebration.

Union Minister expressed confidence in the preparations and called on all party members and local leaders to make the event a resounding success. The celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas aims to honour the rich cultural heritage of India's tribal communities and to continue the legacy of respect and empowerment initiated by the government.

Joint convocation ceremony for NIFT campuses at New Delhi

Chennai Nov 11 2024: National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) conducted the Convocation Ceremony at Bharat Mandapam for its 2023-24 graduating batch of students. The joint convocation included students from four NIFT campuses, namely NIFT Delhi, NIFT Raebareli, NIFT Kangra and NIFT Panchkula. Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles conferred degrees to a total of 810 students of various Undergraduate & Post graduate programmes of design, management and technology. Four PhD students also received their doctorate degrees in the ceremony.

Speaking in the ceremony, Textile Minister Shri Giriraj Singh exhorted the nascent graduate to enter into Startup ensemble and be part of the India's unicorn ecosystem. The HMOT emphasized the compelling need to incorporate AI and

Blockchain technology to the syllabus of all 19 NIFTs. The minister added that India is marching towards Vikshit Bharat and the fresh graduates from NIFT to be job givers than job seekers within next 4 to 5 years. The joint convocation included students from four NIFT campuses, namely NIFT Delhi, NIFT Raebareli, NIFT Kangra and NIFT Panchkula. Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles conferred degrees to a total of 810 students of various Undergraduate & Post graduate programmes of design, management and technology. Four PhD students also received their doctorate degrees in the ceremony.

NIFT, established in 1986 and now operating 19 campuses across India, is widely recognized for its excellence in fashion education, with programs that prepare students for leadership roles in the fashion and apparel sectors. Over 80% of the NIFT students who graduated in 2024 have already

secured jobs through campus placements with top package of Rs. 18 Lacs.

The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries including Ms. Rachna Shah, Secretary (Textiles), Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary (Textiles) and Ms. Tanu Kashyap, Director General NIFT. The campus directors of all four campuses were also present. These graduates will now join the industry in various roles, several of whom will be future entrepreneurs.

NIFT Delhi has earned global acclaim, ranking 10th amongst the fashion institutions worldwide by CEO World Magazine 2024 and maintaining its top spot as India's No. 1 fashion institute. All the participating campuses have excelled in various fields. NIFT Delhi designed combat uniforms for the Indian Army, the Supreme Court of India and

Rashtrapati Bhawan. NIFT Raebareli students gained international recognition winning awards at New Zealand's World of Wearable Art competition and securing first place in the "Box Packaging of Commemorative Coins" contest by the Government of India.

NIFT Kangra focused on sustainability attracting over 600 submissions worldwide in International Conference, a UNDP project empowering 160 women artisans, and the "Mend in Public" initiative with Fashion Revolution, positioning the campus as a hub for eco-conscious education.

NIFT Panchkula is a GRIHA-rated green campus and was received the Outstanding Concrete Structure Award by the Aditya Birla Group.

DFS Secretary urges banks to use all means, especially digital, for updating of PMJDY accounts in a time bound manner

Chennai Nov 11 2024: M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), chaired a meeting with all stakeholders for carrying out fresh Know Your Customer (re-KYC) process for the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account holders, in New Delhi, today.

The PMJDY was launched in 2014 and approximately 10.5 crore PMJDY accounts were opened in mission mode during the period August, 2014 to December 2014. These PMJDY accounts are becoming due for periodic updation or re-

KYC now after 10 years.

During the meeting, Shri Nagaraju suggested using all means for doing re-KYC — such as fingerprints, face recognition, taking declarations where no change in KYC documents occurred — through all channels like ATM, mobile banking, internet banking, and other available digital channels. Banks should also look forward to implement best practices adopted by other peer banks, he said.

Nagaraju stressed that the role of State Level Bankers Committee

(SLBCs/ UTLBCs) as well as Lead District Managers (LDMs) are crucial and they should seek assistance of State / District administration / Gram Panchayats in mobilising people to get the re-KYC done in campaign mode.

Nagaraju also urged the banks to work in the

same zeal as shown by them during launch of PMJDY scheme and complete the task of re-KYC in a mission mode to avoid any inconvenience to customers. He further directed banks to deploy additional staff wherever necessary to complete the re-KYC in a time bound manner.

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Indian Institute of Foreign Trade celebrates 57th Convocation, over 650 students conferred degrees

Chennai Nov 11 2024: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal in his virtual address during the 57th Convocation of The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) motivated the students to stay informed about new trade agreements, using these as avenues to create fresh business opportunities and access new markets. During the address held in New Delhi today, he noted that this knowledge would contribute to the ambitious target of a 'Viksit Bharat,' including the goal of reaching \$2 trillion in trade. Highlighting sectors such as telecom, semiconductors, deep-sea exploration, and space technology, he urged them to contribute to these fields with a forward-thinking mindset.

In his inspiring message, Shri Goyal urged the graduates to embrace their roles as socially responsible professionals. He emphasized the critical importance of ethical business practices, underscoring how today's organizations are expected to uphold Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) principles. He encouraged the graduates to integrate social issues into their management practices, aligning corporate goals with community welfare to make a positive impact on society. He further advised the young graduates to chart their paths to success through innovation, especially by engaging with emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).

He complimented the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, faculty and the students in making IIFT as centre for academic excellence. He also mentioned about the IIFT's first overseas Campus in Dubai, thus thereby spreading its wings in the international business community. He emphasized the dedication and resilience of the students that have brought them to this milestone, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their future careers.

The Indian Institute



of Foreign Trade (IIFT) hosted its 57th Convocation on 11 November, 2024 in New Delhi, with grandeur, marking a significant milestone in the institute's legacy of excellence. The event was graced by a virtual address from Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Shri Piyush Goyal, Chancellor of IIFT and Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Shri Sunil Barthwal presided over the event. The ceremony was honored by the presence of Managing Director of Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., (Amul), Dr. Jayen Mehta, as the Chief Guest, who delivered an inspiring convocation address to the graduates. During the convocation degrees were conferred to more than 650 students from various programs, including the flagship MBA (International Business), MA (Economics) with specialization in International Trade and Finance, Ph.D. in Management and Economics, and Executive Programmes, underscoring IIFT's commitment to train students in the fields of International Business, Economics and Trade.

Shri Sunil Barthwal, Chancellor, IIFT and Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, commended the graduating students for their determination and hard work in reaching this pivotal stage in their lives and encouraged them to apply their learnings from IIFT in their professional careers. Shri Barthwal highlighted IIFT's recent achievements in research and consulting, noting that the institution has developed substantial expertise in analyzing international business environments and creating strategic solutions for corporates. He lauded

Mehta's address underscored the significance of cooperatives in strengthening India's rural economy and ultimately empowering farmers, highlighting the pivotal role cooperatives play in fostering economic resilience at the grassroots level. Dr. Mehta also urged the graduates to prioritize human values and uphold strong ethical principles in their professional lives. Additionally, he reminded them to pay attention to their personal health and well-being, recognizing that a balanced and healthy lifestyle is essential for long-term success and fulfillment.

Congratulating the graduating students, Professor Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Vice Chancellor, IIFT emphasized the significance of hard work and imbibing contemporary managerial skills as critical factors for success in corporate life. Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi commended the faculty and staff for their commitment to academic excellence, which has contributed to IIFT's reputation as a leader in international business education. Prof. Joshi noted that despite challenges in the job market, IIFT achieved 100 percent placements for its graduating class underscoring the institute's commitment to preparing students with skills that meet industry demands. He emphasized the importance of working closely with the industry and government which has helped the institute to contribute to cutting-edge research and policy inputs. Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi also acknowledged IIFT's recent collaborations with prestigious universities in the United States and Europe, strengthening its global engagement and offering students valuable international exposure. He applauded IIFT's research initiatives, which have contributed to its high rankings nationally and internationally, solidifying its role in shaping the future of trade and commerce education.

Celebrating Cinematic Diversity IFFI's Amalgamation of Local and Global Narratives

Chennai Nov 11 2024: The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) stands as a beacon of cinematic excellence, showcasing a harmonious blend of regional and global films that reflect a variety of cultures, narratives, and artistic pursuits. IFFI has been an example of how to attain global acclaim and prowess without parting with the local roots. It has become a melting pot where films, artists and visitors from all over the world come together to celebrate the art and craft. It is also a joyous celebration of the power of cinema as a universal language that transcends boundaries and brings together filmmakers and audiences worldwide.

It is fascinating how the entire structure of IFFI allows it to become a bridge that connects the local with the global. IFFI takes place in the city of Goa, known for its deep-rooted Portuguese heritage, with beautifully preserved 17th-century churches and the surrounding tropical spice plantations. The multicultural fabric of Goa's society shines brightly advocating equal respect for all cultures.

The statistics reflect that IFFI positions itself as a platform where diversity is cherished. This year's 55th IFFI festival, to be held from November 20 to 28 in Goa, has attracted significant global participation, with 1,676 submissions from 101 countries and more than 180 films from 81 nations set to be presented. Such



numbers highlight IFFI's expanding global footprint and its role as a conduit between different cinematic traditions. At the same time there are multiple vernacular language movies that rule the screens providing a culture-fluid ecosystem for art to thrive!

One of the key aspects that underscores IFFI's unique position as the champion of regional cinema is the Indian Panorama section. The diversity is reflected in the multiple vernacular language movies that are selected. This year's selection includes 25 feature films in total out of which five are Hindi films, two Kannada films, one Tamil film, 3 Marathi films, two Telugu films, one Gujarati film, three Assamese, four Malayalam, three Bengali and one Galo film. Similarly in the Non-Feature category there are 20 selections including seven Hindi films, 2 Tamil films, one Bengali film, one Haryanvi film, one Garo film, one Punjabi film, one Ladakhi film, one Marathi film, one Oriya film, one Tamil, one English, one Rajasthani film and one Konkani film. This selection is a

testament to the myriad storytelling traditions present within India, offering a microcosm of its diverse culture.

Co-Production Market further reinforces this blend of local and international as it showcases the seamless integration of local and global film industries. The official selection for the Co-Production Market featuring 21 feature films and 8 web series from seven countries, including Hindi, English, Assamese, Tamil, Marwari, Bengali, Malayalam, Punjabi, Nepali, Marathi, Pahari, and Cantonese. This selection exemplifies IFFI's dedication to fostering a collaborative and culturally inclusive cinematic environment, blending regional and global storytelling.

Similarly, the Film Bazaar's Work-in-Progress (WIP) Lab at IFFI 2024 exemplifies the festival's commitment to nurturing new voices in cinema. The selected films include Shape of Momos by Tribeny Rai (Nepali), Gaangshalik (Gaangshalik - River Bird) by Shakteedhar Bir (Bengali), Yerra Mandaram (The Red

Hibiscus) by Mohan Kumar Valasala (Telugu), Kaatti Ri Raatti (Hunters Moon) by Ridham Janve (Gaddi, Nepali), Umal by Siddharth Badi (Marathi), and The Good, The Bad, The Hungry by Vivek Kumar (Hindi). Notably, five of these films are debut features, highlighting the immense potential and innovative vision of young filmmakers. The Lab's hybrid model of online and offline mentoring facilitates vital feedback, enabling these filmmakers to refine their projects with both regional authenticity and global appeal.

Additionally, IFFI 2024 honors Australia as the "Country of Focus," a move that enhances the festival's international character and underscores shared storytelling traditions through the India-Australia Audio Visual Co-production Treaty. This emphasis on cross-cultural dialogue exemplifies how IFFI goes beyond being just a festival—it is a meeting ground for global narratives, where diverse voices come together to celebrate cinema.

With such extensive global and regional participation, IFFI 2024 is poised to be a beacon of artistic exchange, reflecting how cinema can act as a conduit for connection across borders. By championing both emerging and seasoned filmmakers and facilitating a blend of local authenticity and international collaboration, IFFI solidifies its role as a vital cultural hub that celebrates the vivid stories of the world.

Extension of the last date to receive comments / counter-comments on the TRAI's Consultation Paper on the Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023

Chennai Nov 11 2024: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on the Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 on

22.10.2024. The last date for receiving written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper from stakeholders was fixed as 12.11.2024 and for counter-comments as 19.11.2024.

Keeping in view the requests of some of the stakeholders for an

extension of time for submission of comments, it has been decided to extend the last dates for submission of written comments and counter-comments up to 19.11.2024 and 26.11.2024 respectively.

The comments/counter-comments

may be sent, preferably in electronic form, at advmn@traai.gov.in. For any clarification/information, Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum & Licensing), TRAI may be contacted at telephone number +91-11-20907758.

HP unveils OMEN 35L Desktop in India to enable a Customisable Gaming Experience

Chennai Nov 11 2024: HP has launched the OMEN 35L Desktop in India, designed to provide gamers with an unparalleled combination of power, customization, and personalization. Equipped with the latest Intel® Core™ i7 processors[1] and up to NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 4060 GPUs, the OMEN 35L Desktop brings the ultimate gaming experience to those who demand top-tier performance and versatility.

Modern gamers are seeking high-performance devices that not only deliver exceptional gameplay but also allow them to reflect their unique personality. The OMEN 35L Desktop takes personalization to a new level, offering gamers the ability to customize both the internal components and external aesthetics. From fine-tuning system



performance to adjusting RGB lighting through the integrated OMEN Gaming Hub, gamers can enhance their experience with one unified interface for performance tweaks, lighting control, and even third-party gaming service integration.

“At HP, we are dedicated to advancing technology that empowers gamers with highly personalized and immersive experiences. The launch of the OMEN 35L Desktop marks an exciting step forward

The OMEN 35L Desktop is engineered with future readiness in mind. It ensures that gamers can easily upgrade their systems over time to keep up with the latest advancements in gaming technology. Whether it's adding more memory or upgrading the GPU, the OMEN 35L Desktop offers a seamless upgrade path to ensure it stays at the cutting edge of performance.

With its powerful hardware configuration, including Intel® Core™ i7 processors and up to NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 4060 GPUs, the OMEN 35L Desktop delivers lightning-fast speeds, smoother gameplay, and enhanced graphics. This gaming rig ensures a superior and immersive gaming experience while playing the latest AAA titles or while engaging in intense multiplayer battles.

A computer tower with a screen and a computertower

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CUTN and Holy Cross College Trichy Sign MoU on National Education Day

Chennai Nov 11 2024: On the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, celebrated as National Education Day, the Department of Education at the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) marked the occasion with a significant step forward in higher education and academic collaboration. An MoU was signed between the Central University of Tamil Nadu and the PG and Research Department of Rehabilitation Science, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli. This partnership aims to elevate the quality of teaching, research, and community service for students and scholars across both institutions.

The MoU was signed by Prof. R. Thirumurugan, Registrar of CUTN, and Dr. Isabella Rajakumari, Principal of Holy Cross College, in the presence of Prof. M. Krishnan, Vice Chancellor of CUTN, senior faculty including Prof. Senthilnathan,



Director MMTTC BDU, Prof S Venkatraman, HOD, Dept Education, Prof P. Srinivasan, CUTN, senior faculty from Holy Cross College and students of CUTN.

The MoU between the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) and Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, aims to develop academic excellence through a series of strategic initiatives, including joint training programs, seminars, and workshops to enhance teaching and research capabilities for both faculty and students. The partnership emphasizes collaborative research, field analysis, and an inclusive academic environment, particularly benefiting marginalized and differently-abled students. Faculty and student exchanges will

provide practical field exposure and promote a culture of mutual learning.

The institutions will develop opportunities for students and scholars to complete parts of their coursework or training in accordance with the standards set by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI).

During his address, Prof M. Krishnan, Vice Chancellor CUTN, said, “Education is a powerful tool, but the real impact comes when we apply it to make a difference and transform our society. Collaboration is key; many of our greatest achievements have come from working together. Our research and efforts for society should always aim for sustainability, creating lasting value rather than temporary

solutions. We must strive to ensure that the innovations and benefits of higher education reach even the remotest villages, bringing progress to every corner of our nation. This is our responsibility and our privilege as educators and learners.”

Dr. Isabella Rajakumari, Principal of Holy Cross College, said, “This MoU deeply resonates with the vision of Mother Sophie, who founded Holy Cross College in 1923 with a pioneering commitment to empower women through education. Today, as we celebrate National Education Day, we honour the legacy of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, whose dedication to education aligns closely with our founder's ideals. Both believed in the transformative power of education to uplift the society. Together, we aim to develop innovative teaching methods and rehabilitative practices to enhance our students' abilities to meet society's evolving needs.”

Flipkart Achieves 10,000 Electric Vehicle Deployment Milestone in Delivery Fleet, Strengthening Its Path To A 100% Electric Logistics Network By 2030

Chennai Nov 11 2024: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has achieved a significant milestone, with the deployment of over 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in its delivery fleet. This accomplishment is the result of a phased integration of EVs in last mile delivery over the past few years, aligning to its commitment to adopting a fully electric logistics Last-mile fleet by 2030 as part of the Climate Group's EV100 initiative. This news has been shared in the run up to Flipkart's highly anticipated Sustainability Action Summit 2024, scheduled for 13th November at India Habitat Center New Delhi.

Currently, 75% of Flipkart's electric fleet is concentrated in Tier-I cities including Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. In August 2024, Flipkart also shared that over 55% of its grocery orders were being fulfilled by EVs. Further, during the 2024 festive period, it successfully leveraged its EV fleet to complete over 16% of grocery deliveries to tier 2+ cities, including Lucknow, Sonapat, Ludhiana, Bhubaneswar, Malda, Hubli, and Vizag, ensuring sustainable and



efficient service to these areas during a season of high demand.

The strategic adoption of EVs has resulted in substantial operational efficiencies, lowering the cost per order at the hub level and improving the last-mile delivery speed by 20%, compared to conventional delivery vehicles.

In addition to expanding its EV fleet, Flipkart is also making significant investments in charging infrastructure to support this sustainable transition. The organization has partnered with the Adani Group to establish 38 dedicated charging sites featuring a total of 190 chargers across key Tier-2 cities, with further public infrastructure developments planned to facilitate wider EV adoption. Furthermore, Flipkart has introduced a Last-Mile Aggregator model in Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, collaborating with EV-focused fleet operators to enhance supply chain operations and scale the integration of electric vehicles.

Dharmendra Pradhan to inaugurate National Workshop on Higher and Technical Education with Secretaries of States/UTs

Chennai Nov 11 2024: Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, will be inaugurating a two-day National Workshop on Higher and Technical Education with Secretaries of States/UTs on 12th November 2024 in New Delhi. Minister of State for Education and the Development of North Eastern Region, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, will also be present at the event. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretaries of States/UTs, academicians, Head of the Institutes, and officials of the Ministry will also be present there.

The objective of this workshop is to

disseminate various approaches and methodologies to implement NEP 2020; effectively articulate the roadmap and implementation strategies, fostering knowledge exchange; provide a common platform for all stakeholders to come together and network for effective and smooth implementation of the NEP 2020 and encourage its adoption in state institutions, paving the way for a more robust, inclusive, and globally competitive education system across India.

Adopting NEP 2020 offers numerous benefits for states' higher education systems. It can drive economic growth by creating a more skilled

workforce, attracting investments, and boosting development. By aligning higher education with international standards, it enhances the global competitiveness of states' education systems, potentially attracting more international students and collaborations. The policy's emphasis on research and a multidisciplinary approach fosters innovation ecosystems within states, leading to technological advancements and economic benefits.

Successful implementation of NEP 2020 in higher education requires active participation and commitment from state governments. By

fleet, we have worked tirelessly to transform our delivery network to build a greener future. To sustain and accelerate the momentum of electric vehicle adoption in the Indian market, several ecosystem interventions are crucial and we are proud to say that we have made positive strides in that direction. Through our strategic partnership with the Climate Group's EV100 initiative and collaborations with leading OEMs, EV service providers, charging infrastructure partners, financing bodies, and manpower sourcing agencies, we are well-positioned to achieve a 100% last-mile electric fleet by 2030. This shift not only aligns with our broader vision for sustainability but also enhances the service experience for our delivery executives by providing a smoother, more efficient and cost-effective mode of transport and creating cleaner cities for our customers.”

This development further strengthens Flipkart's position as a responsible corporate citizen, reiterating its goal of transitioning to 100% electric vehicles in last-mile by 2030, while delivering reliable, efficient, and sustainable services to its customers.

Speaking about the latest achievement in Flipkart's Sustainable vision, Nishant Gupta, Head of Sustainability at Flipkart said “Since the beginning of our journey towards electrifying our

leveraging central government schemes and aligning state policies with NEP 2020, states have the opportunity to transform their education systems to meet the challenges of the 21st century while preserving their unique cultural identities. During this two-day workshop, 14 technical sessions on the themes of NEP 2020 Implementation – Challenges and Roadmap; Technology in Education; Collaboration in Education; Digital Governance; Capacity Building & Leadership; and Financing of Higher Education will also be held by eminent speakers.

VR Chennai to host the Chennai Japan Expo 2024, showcasing Japanese culture, travel, study, and career opportunities

Chennai Nov 11 2024: VR Chennai is set to host the "Chennai Japan Expo 2024," a one-day cultural and educational event on November 9, 2024, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Japan in Chennai. The event will be inaugurated by Consul-General Mr. Muneo Takahashi and will offer an authentic showcase of Japanese culture, aimed at strengthening connections through tourism, education, and employment opportunities.

Visitors can experience Japanese tradition and art through vibrant performances, interactive demonstrations, and hands-on workshops. Key highlights include the soulful melodies of the Shamisen, blended with contemporary Japanese tunes, bringing the rich sounds of Japan to Chennai. Guests can also experience the art of Ikebana flower



arranging, the intricate artistry of Bonsai, and participate in origami, martial arts workshops, and a special Tea Ceremony, providing an authentic introduction to Japanese cultural expressions.

For those interested in pursuing education or career opportunities in Japan, the expo will feature informative

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) will present information on high-skilled job opportunities available for interested attendees. The Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) will offer travel tips and recommendations for those keen on exploring the country.

VR Chennai provides an ideal environment to bring communities together around culture, education, and the arts. Driven by Virtuous Retail's philosophy of Connecting Communities© the centre offers a platform for engaging programs and events that foster shared understanding across diverse audiences, making it a fitting destination for a city known for its thriving IT and technology sector.

booths and panel discussions. Representatives from renowned Japanese universities will be present to discuss academic programs, scholarships, and study-abroad opportunities. Additionally, career panels by leading Japanese companies will provide insights into Japan's work culture and career prospects.

Indian Life insurers register record new business figures in October'24; premium collection and policy issuances swell by 18.56% and 5.42% respectively on a YTD basis

Chennai Nov 11 2024: Life Insurance Council has released updated industry business numbers for the month of October 2024. Amongst several key highlights, new business premiums (NBPs) underwritten by Indian life insurers has achieved a robust Y-o-Y growth of 13.16% in the month of Oct'24, with YTD figures recording a 18.56% growth over the same period last year. New business premiums expanded from Rs.26819.01 Crs in Oct 2023 to Rs.30347.6 Crs in Oct 2024, with YTD collections growing even more from Rs.185195.81 Crs to Rs.219561.64 Crs this year. Despite the underlying demand for enhanced insurance protection from both

individual consumers and corporate clients alike, new policy issuances decreased by 41.6% to 12,01,214 in October'24 as compared with 20,56,928 policies sold in the same corresponding period last year.

According to data released by the Life Insurance Council, the life insurance industry saw individual single premiums growing by 8.60% on a Y-o-Y basis to close at Rs.3397.07 Crs for Oct'24 while YTD growth stood at 14.16%. Individual non-single premiums came in at Rs.7453.5 Crs and grew by 2.76% in Oct'24, even as YTD collections settled at 18.23% higher than the corresponding period last year. This strong

performance can be ascribed to the fact that life insurers are increasingly focusing on encouraging first-time life insurance buyers to buy essential life insurance solutions, contributing to the 4.52% growth in combined individual premium collections for the month of Oct'24 and 16.89% growth on a YTD basis. In the Group policy segment, single premiums grew by 15.81% with monthly collections coming in at Rs.18258.37Crs. In fact, the Group policy category witnessed a 18.61% growth in premiums collected in Oct'24 while new policy issuances expanded by 2.70% on a Y-o-Y basis.

The life insurance industry in India has been making

significant strides forward by expanding access to insurance and making an effort to reach out to areas and segments of the country's population that were previously underserved when it comes to their insurance needs. Towards this end, life insurers added more than 5,82,565 individual life insurance agents, with an overall 2.64% growth in cumulative agent count. Still, the sustained pace of agent addition is being complimented by the high speed of digitisation by life insurers, paving the way for additional gains in insurance penetration that should provide a significant boost to new business premiums in FY25 and beyond.

President of India to visit Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu from November 12 to 14

Chennai Nov 11 2024: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu from November 12 to 14, 2024.

On November 12, the President will visit the Aviary and the Government Engineering College and NIFT Campus at Daman.

On November 13,

the President will visit NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute, Silvassa and interact with the students and faculty of various educational institutions. Subsequently, she will inaugurate Zanda Chowk School and address a public function at Silvassa. On the same evening, she will also visit INS Khukri Memorial.

Apollo SHINE Reaffirms Commitment to Student Health and Emergency Preparedness among school students



Chennai Nov 11 2024: Apollo Hospitals, through its not-for-profit initiative Apollo SHINE, continues to lead the charge in promoting health and safety across schools and colleges. This year Apollo SHINE is hosting a special event on "Emergency Preparedness in Schools" focusing on preparing schools to handle emergencies and equip students with critical health knowledge on the 7th of November 2024.

Apollo SHINE has been a pioneer in campus health since its initiation in 2015, touching the lives of over 1 million individuals across 175 schools and colleges in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Delhi/NCR. Guided by the vision of Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Apollo SHINE aims to address the growing burden of non-

communicable diseases (NCDs) by providing a health program for students, staff, and even their families.

Dr. Indira Jayakumar, Medical Director, Apollo SHINE Foundation, presented the key components of emergency preparedness in schools and how the various emergencies faced in schools can be ably handed ensuring the safety of students. She said "In medical emergencies, time is a precious commodity. These initial moments can make a significant difference". She talked about the importance of having a well-equipped Health Room with emergency trained Medical Personnel. She presented cases of unexpected incidents in school and showcased the difference made by timely assistance of the Apollo Shine

Nurses and 15 nurses were felicitated on behalf of the entire Apollo Shine School Nurse team.

An Emergency Map for all schools marking the location of the Health Room, Ambulance pick up point, with a built-in a 5-step Emergency Action Guide was launched too with a view to making this mandatory in all schools in the state.

The event featured the official launch of the Apollo Shine Student Health Ambassador program, which plays a critical role in spreading health awareness and emergency preparedness among peers. As part of the event, participants toured different types of Apollo 1066 ambulances at the venue, further strengthening their readiness to handle critical situations

Kishore Manohar,

Director, Apollo Shine Foundation, said, "We are proud to reinforce our commitment to student health and emergency preparedness through the Apollo SHINE program. By empowering students with the knowledge to handle emergencies, we create a safer and healthier school environment. The launch of our Student Health Ambassador program reflects our mission to build a culture of wellness and responsibility among the younger generation."

Apollo SHINE remains committed to its mission of promoting student health and ensuring that no child's life is compromised when emergencies arise. Through initiatives like these, Apollo Hospitals continues to set the benchmark for student healthcare and wellness in India.

TASTE THE EPIC AS KFC CELEBRATES ITS ICONIC RANGE OF FAN FAVOURITES

Chennai Nov 11 2024: KFC = EPIC TASTE. And that's what the brand is now saying with its latest campaign – TASTE THE EPIC. For almost three decades now, KFC has been delighting fans across the country with finger lickin' good crispy chicken. This November, KFC celebrates its range of bestselling fan favourites – from the iconic Hot & Crispy Chicken, Hot Wings to the boneless Chicken Popcorn, and Peri-Peri Boneless Chicken Strips, to the variety of Zinger Burgers, Rolls and more.

Consumers across India can TASTE THE EPIC, with the unmatched, droolworthy taste and



unbeatable crunch of KFC's signature menu items.

Chicken lovers, be prepared to treat yourselves with a range of options across three categories of KFC's bestselling menu items – Chicken on Bone; Boneless and Burgers & More – ensuring there is something for everyone.

The 'Chicken on Bone' category brings fans the iconic, finger lickin' good taste and experience. The juicy and crispy signature Hot & Crispy Chicken

served in the iconic bucket is best for sharing, while the crunchy Hot Wings add unparalleled taste to the table.

The 'Boneless' range offers a variety of convenient snacks and easy, on-the-go options including the bite-sized Chicken Popcorn and the crispy Peri Peri Boneless Strips.

'Burgers & More' presents the epic KFC taste in different formats. KFC fans can indulge in the range of Chicken Rolls, inspired by zesty

flavours from around the globe such as Thai Spicy, Korean Tangy, American Nashville, or Indian Tandoori. There's also the wide variety of Zinger Burgers, bringing together crispy chicken fillets and veggies doused with delectable sauces in between soft sesame buns. Pair these with the much-loved aromatic Rice Bowlz to make for a complete meal or indulge in them as is.

So, get ready to TASTE THE EPIC at KFC. Enjoy all your favourites across 1200+ KFC restaurants for dine-in and takeaway, via the KFC app, or on the website (<https://online.kfc.co.in/>).