

1st- 30th November 2024

For Private Circulation Only

BHARAT NEWS BY FII

Monthly Newsletter For Global Audience



Signing of MOU between Federation of Indian Industry (FII) and the High Commission of Republic of Uganda in New Delhi

23-25 Visit of Prime Minister to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Brazil and Republic of Guyana (November 16-21, 2024)



Brazil



Nigeria



Guyana



Indian Dream Global Action



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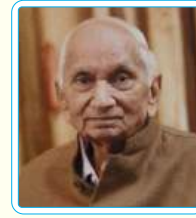
Manufacturing Units - Bharuch (Gujarat) & Chandauli (U.P), India



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Padma Bhushan
L. Sh. Darshan Lal Jain



Padma Vibhushan
L. Smt. Sushma Swaraj

OUR INSPIRATIONS



From the Desk of



Dr. Deepak Jain

Director-General, Federation of Indian Industry

India and Uganda share a long-standing and multifaceted relationship, underpinned by historical, cultural, and economic ties. The industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries has grown significantly in recent years, with India emerging as one of Uganda's key trade and investment partners. Indian companies are actively involved in infrastructure projects in Uganda, including roads, power plants, and housing.

Collaboration in renewable energy, particularly solar energy, has strengthened, with India offering expertise and technology transfer to boost Uganda's energy capacity. FII's signing of MoU with Uganda High Commission in India will provide more opportunities to strengthen the bilateral collaboration. India's Make in India and Uganda's Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU) policies align to promote industrial collaboration and mutual trade growth.



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MISSION JALDHARA



मिशन जलधारा - बुझाओ धरती की प्यास

What is Mission Jaldhara?

Mission Jaldhara is a joint society initiative – to revive groundwater table level.

We call it a "Mission"

- Because it is our fight against the drastically falling groundwater levels.
- Because our entire focus is to revive the groundwater table and the overall water ecosystem which is necessary for a healthy life.
- Because we are determined to provide safe and healthy drinkable water to every household in India.

With this vision in mind, we are pleased to introduce "Mission Jaldhara" with you.

Why Mission Jaldhara?

According to reports, the over exploited areas were concentrated in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Haryana. To quantify the facts, there has been an 82% decline in the ground watertable in Distt. Gurugram between 2018 – 2020 and it has further declined by over 50 percent in 2022.

The groundwater table in these parts of the country is rapidly going into the dark zone. This level is dangerously low and requires immediate action.

How do we plan to achieve a sustainable water ecosystem?

Our dream is big. Our vision is to make India a drought free, hydro – ecologically balanced and environmentally sustainable Nation.

And we have just begun..

Our campaign is starting in Gurugram and will spread across states in India.

What do you get?

- Safer and cleaner water for generations to come!
- Mission Jaldhara shall also award the Title of "Gurugram ka Arjun" in various categories to the stakeholders who make the maximum visible and most impactful contribution to the revival of ground water levels.

What do we need from you?

We want you to join the movement.



Become a Donor

Your donation will help us keep going. It will boost the ground work that we do – maintaining rainwater harvesting wells – which directly seeps into the groundwater table.



Register as a Motivator

Sign up with us and motivate corporates/ teams to join the movement. Corporates can adopt wells under their company's CSR Initiatives and we would maintain the wells on their behalf.



Register as a Volunteer

Register on the website and help create more awareness. Tell your friends and family about this movement and spread the word.

Why are we looking for your contribution?



Simply because, Mission Jaldhara was and will always be a joint community project. Our vision is to have as many people join the movement. Clean and safe water is a basic right for everyone and thus, it is important to create awareness about it. We dream this dream for every Indian citizen and hence, we need you.

Track your donation



As a Donor, Motivator or a Volunteer, you will be enrolled for our monthly free newsletter subscription. You will be able to keep a track of the progress being made on ground. The location of every well shall be provided through Google maps and will be easily accessed by donors and interested parties. We believe in complete transparency and utter commitment towards our work.



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Our panel of experts have designed the following plan of action for achieving this dream:

1. Revival of dry & dysfunctional rainwater harvesting wells across District Gurugram. Different stakeholders constructed these wells in the pre-covid era to jumpstart rainwater harvesting initiative. The project however was put on halt due to corona crisis due to which most of the wells became dysfunctional. With our intervention, these wells shall be revived to their optimum functional levels, and will be maintained by our team of contractors.
2. Revival of rural water ecosystem bodies in and around District Gurugram. The falling groundwater level affects the agricultural economy and day-to-day life of people residing in these villages.
3. Judicious use of water resources. This is possible through mass awareness of the current situation arising through India and how every individual can contribute through lifestyle changes.

Why is it close to us ?

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children."

We want to leave a clean, sustainable environment for our future generations. The world is moving towards cleaner, greener fuels. There is marked awareness about leaving smaller carbon footprint. And all of this becomes possible, when there is clean and safe water for one and all. Unless we take action today, we are headed towards a colossal crisis. And our next generations may have to pay the price for it.

It is time for us to join hands and come together to revive Jaldhara. Remember, the time is now! "Jai hai to Jeevan hai"



FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY
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About Us

Federation of Indian Industry (FII) is a professional Industry Association. Its objective is to nurture further and give impetus to India's Economic, Business and Industrial outreach.

We have FII Chapters in 42 Nations of the world and 22 Indian states with 5000 members mainly Industrialists, Professionals, Key-Opinion Leaders, Philanthropists.

We are helping towards the making of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and working towards creating business opportunities and bolstering India's industrial and business outreach globally.

FII CSR Initiatives:

- Rural Healthcare Dispensary Establishment during Corona Crisis
- Free Eye Surgeries for 300+ People in Rural Areas
- Skill Development for Women in Rural Areas
- Skill Development for Youth in Rural Area (Computer Training Centre)
- Free COVID Vaccination camps (35000+ vaccinations)

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!





MR. SANJEEV ARORA

DR. DRAVYA JAIN

Every Thursday

18:00 PM (IST)

Talk with an Expert show

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Author Insights : Stack of My Unfiltered Thoughts

Moderator

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker

Mrs Beena Hora
Member -Thailand Chapter-FII
Author, Motivational Speaker

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Moderator

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker

Mrs Beena Hora
Member -Thailand Chapter-FII
Author, Motivational Speaker

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 **Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII**

RERA's Role in Real Estate Development

Moderator

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker

Mr. Sanjeev Arora
Chartered Accountant &
Member HRERA Gurugram

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
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 **Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII**

The Sustainable Growth Roadmap for MSMEs

Moderator

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker

Ms. Ritu Jain
FII Member &
Business Consultant

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PHARMA INDUSTRY FACES UNCERTAINTY OVER REVISED SCHEDULE M DEADLINE

YOGESH SHARMA, BADDI

As the December 31 deadline for pharmaceutical companies with a turnover under Rs. 250 crore to comply with the revised Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act approaches, uncertainty looms over the industry's ability to meet the stringent regulations. The Union Health Ministry's silence on extending the deadline has created confusion and anxiety among small-scale drug manufacturers.

The revised Schedule M guidelines, notified on January 6, 2024, mandate adherence to updated Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to ensure high-quality drug production. Large companies, with a turnover of over Rs. 250 crore, had a deadline of July 31, 2024, which they largely met. However, smaller companies are struggling to complete the required



upgrades due to significant financial constraints. Industry leaders argue that they need an additional year or more to complete the necessary improvements, which often involve costly machinery and extensive technical work. Chiranjeev Thakur, President of Federation of Indian Industry, highlighted the financial

burden on small manufacturers, stating that a single piece of machinery could cost in lakhs of rupees, with total upgrade costs potentially reaching Rs. 3 crore. He expressed concern that without an extension, many companies would be forced to shut down, leading to mass unemployment. Similar concerns were echoed by manufacturers of other abutting States of Himachal Pradesh, who reported that a delegation of industry leaders had met with Union Health Minister JP Nadda six months ago to request a two-year extension. While the minister had assured them that a one-year extension would be considered, no official notification has been issued, leaving the industry in a state of uncertainty.

Industry representatives from Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu also reported ongoing confusion

due to the lack of response from the government. Dr. Darshan Kataria, President of the Madhya Pradesh Small-scale Drug Manufacturers Association (MPSDMA), emphasized that no industry in the state could complete the required upgrades by the end of the year without financial assistance or an extension. The revised Schedule M is part of the government's effort to enforce GMP standards, ensuring the production of safe, effective, and high-quality medicines. However, the delay in government communication on this crucial issue is putting the future of many small and medium-sized drug manufacturing units at risk.

As the deadline looms, industry leaders are calling for immediate clarity from the Union Health Ministry on whether an extension will be granted, to avoid a crisis in the pharmaceutical sector.

सीईओ आईएस सोनाक्षी तोमर ने उद्योग संगठनों के साथ मिलकर बनाई रणनीति



बीबीएनडीए में आयोजित बैठक की अध्यक्षता करती सीईओ आईएस सोनाक्षी सिंह तोमर ।

उत्तम हिन्दू न्यूज नेटवर्क

बीबीएन/डा. किशोर ठाकुर : बददी बरोटीवाला नालागढ़ के उद्योगों में अग्रि सुरक्षा को और ज्यादा सशक्त बनाने के लिए उद्योग संगठनों की एक बैठक झाड़माजरी बीबीएनडीए कार्यालय में हुई। बैठक की अध्यक्षता बीबीएनडीए की सीईओ आईएस सोनाक्षी सिंह तोमर ने की। बैठक का मुख्य एजेंडा उद्योगों में फायर सेफ्टी को लेकर था ताकि भविष्य में कोई हादसा होता है तो उस समय आपदा प्रबंध पूर्ण हो। फरवरी में झाड़माजरी के कैमीकल उद्योग में हुए भयंकर हादसे के बाद ही बीबीएन विकास प्राधिकरण के जिम्मे यह काम था कि हर उद्योग की फायर सेफ्टी चेक की जाए। इसी बीच फायर विभाग ने भी अपने नियमों व कानूनों में सख्ती कर दी जिसकी अनुपालना छोटे उद्योग नहीं कर पा रहे थे। इन्ही मुद्दों को लेकर सोनाक्षी तोमर ने क्षेत्र के आधा दर्जन उद्योग संगठनों के साथ बैठक बुलाई थी। बैठक में यह तय हुआ कि उद्योग विभाग के उप निदेशक योगेश गुप्ता की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी का गठन किया जाएगा। यह कमेटी दो हफ्ते के अंदर फायर सेफ्टी को लेकर अपनी विस्तृत रिपोर्ट बीबीएनडीए की सीईओ को प्रस्तुत करेगी। इस कमेटी में फायर विभाग से सेवानिवृत्त अफसर

को सदस्य बनाया जाएगा वहीं हर उद्योग संगठन से एक उद्यमी इसका सदस्य होगा। इसके अलावा बड़े उद्योगों के सेफ्टी अफसरों को भी इसमें विशेष तौर पर जोड़ा जाएगा। यह कमेटी दो हफ्ते के अंदर हर इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया में जाकर देखेगी कि फायर सुरक्षा कैसे मजबूत हो सकती है। जो बड़े उद्योग साधन संपन्न है उनको आग लगने की स्थिति में एमएसएमई सैक्टर के उद्योगों की सहायता के लिए तैयार किया जाएगा। बीबीएनआईए के अध्यक्ष राजीव अग्रवाल व महामंत्री वाईएस गुलेरिया ने कहा कि छोटे उद्योग फायर सेफ्टी के नियम पूरे नहीं कर सकते इसलिए हर एरिया में एक कलस्टर बनाकर सब कारखानों को इसके साथ जोड़ा जा सकता है।

बीबीएन उद्योग संघ करेगा लीड : फायर सेफ्टी व आपदा प्रबंधन की कमेटी व सुझाव का समस्त जिम्मा उद्योग संगठनों ने सर्वसम्मति से बीबीएन उद्योग संघ को सौंपा दिया। एचडीएमए के अध्यक्ष डा राजेश गुप्ता व लघु उद्योग संघ के प्रदेशाध्यक्ष अशोक राणा तथा लघु उद्योग भारती के राज्य महासचिव संजीव शर्मा ने कहा कि इन समस्त कार्यों के बेहतर निष्पादन को लेकर बीबीएन इंडस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन सक्षम है और सुरक्षा के मुद्दे को लेकर हम सब इनके साथ हैं।



The India-Kazakhstan Business Conference on Electronics Equipment and Engineering Goods was held on November 11 in Astana, at the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC). The event brought together prominent business leaders, government officials, and industry experts to discuss opportunities for increased trade, joint ventures, and collaboration in the electronics and engineering sectors.



UK businesses are playing a significant role in India's economic development, with 667 UK-owned companies contributing Rs 5,082 billion in revenue and employing over 523,000 people, according to the

latest Britain Meets India 2024 report, released by Grant Thornton Bharat in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The report showcases the expanding footprint of UK companies in India. It identifies the top 162 high-performing firms with exclusive growth criteria, collectively surpassing an annual revenue of Rs 500 million and achieving at least 10 per cent growth year-on-year.



A senior Russian diplomat on Wednesday said bilateral trade between the two countries has reached a record USD 66 billion in 2024, marking a fivefold increase over the past five

years, with a 9 per cent rise in the first eight months of this year. The envoy said Russia and India are on track to achieve the ambitious USD 100 billion trade target by 2030, bolstered by expanding collaborations and diversified trade opportunities.



Tata Power has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank for a funding arrangement of \$4.25 billion to finance clean energy power projects, it said in a statement.

The agreement with the multilateral funding institution details several projects that are being evaluated for financing such as the 966 MW solar wind hybrid project, the pumped hydro storage project and other projects in the pipeline around energy transition, decarbonisation, and battery storage as well as ongoing financing for capex towards strengthening the distribution networks managed by the company.



Ather Energy plans to invest ₹750 crore in research and development to ramp up its in-house software capabilities and gain strategic advantage in the hyper-competitive domestic electric scooters market.

The electric two wheeler company has invested heavily on building a software ecosystem to not only add value in terms of performance and features, but also become a significant revenue stream in the long run.



Greenzo Energy Gets Rs 500 Crore Order in Nepal for 120 MW Solar Project.

This EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) project is part of the commitment to strengthening clean energy infrastructure in South Asia and plays a key role in advancing Nepal's renewable energy ambitions," the company said. The project will be developed in a phased manner and completed by 2025. The infrastructure will be fully ground-mounted, with the development of an advanced high-tension transmission line to connect directly to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) grid.



Bharti Airtel's data centre company Nxtra plans to invest Rs 5,000 crore to double its capacity to around 400 megawatt over the next three years, the firm said on 6th November 2024. The company had earlier set a target of reaching around 400 megawatt capacity by 2025.

Nxtra said it has become the first data centre in India to leverage AI to build digitised facilities engineered to drive smart capabilities like predictive maintenance, enhanced operational and energy efficiency, streamlined automation of operations and optimised capex utilisation.



The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp has announced its plans to enter Europe and the United Kingdom, starting with its electric vehicle brand Vida from the second half of 2025, as it looks to consolidate its presence in international markets. Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal said, "We will be entering Europe and the UK, led by our electric vehicle brand Vida." The company has unveiled four new products including a new electric scooter Vida Z at EICMA, Milan.



Novel Jewels, the jewellery business vertical of Aditya Birla Group, is planning to open 100 stores across India in the next 18 months with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore, its chief executive Sandeep Kohli said.

Besides owned stores, the company also plans to look at franchisee models, said Kohli. "We've already got a huge unsolicited kind of response from people wanting to be our franchisees. So we will very soon roll that model out," he said.



Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd., a leading hospital network in India, plans to expand its capacity by adding over 3,500 beds (with 2,877 operational) across 11 locations

over the next four years through a combination of greenfield, brownfield, and acquisition projects. This expansion is projected to cost about ₹6,100 crore.

POLITICAL NEWS



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday emphasised that the 21st century belongs to India, with youth as the torchbearers of innovation and agents of change driving the nation's growth story. Birla was addressing the 27th Annual Convocation of Manav Rachna University held on 30 November 2024.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday asserted that PM Narendra Modi was of the view that women would steer economic growth in the country, which was on its way to becoming the third largest economy in the world.

She was speaking at a credit outreach programme held in the north Bihar town of Darbhanga, where loans for Rs 1,388 crore were provided to 49,137 beneficiaries by various banks. Among those present were Union minister Chirag Paswan and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, among others.



Few, if any, Indian Prime Ministers have addressed football clubs. Narendra Modi will likely be the first when he speaks virtually at a summit co-

hosted by Germany's Bundesliga club VfB Stuttgart, India's TV9 Network, and supported by the state of Baden-Württemberg. To be held in Stuttgart at the iconic football stadium, MHP Arena, from November 21 to 23, the theme of the event is 'India-Germany: A roadmap to sustainable growth'.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



India supports an immediate ceasefire in West Asia and favours a two-state solution in the long-term, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said November 25, as he condemned terrorism, hostage-taking and civilian casualties in military operations. Speaking at the 10th edition of the MED Mediterranean Dialogue in Rome, Jaishankar said that India regards large-scale civilian casualties in military operations to be unacceptable and added that international humanitarian law cannot be disregarded.



A group of Indian Americans has developed an app that provides AI-driven insight to farmers for making better farming decisions.

Launched at the Invest Smart Caribbean Summit in Washington DC last week, the Let ZFarm App is being put to use in the Caribbean Island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. It has been developed by Massachusetts-based Abris Inc in collaboration with the Carbon Zero Institute of Trinidad and Tobago.



India and Australia on November 19, officially launched the Renewable Energy Partnership that aims to boost two-way investment in the renewable energy sectors as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese.

BANKING AND FINANCE



State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday said it has launched a nation-wide drive to raise awareness about the importance of inoperative account activation. A savings or a current account is treated as inoperative if the customer has no transaction in the account for a period of over two years. Activation of these accounts requires Re-KYC. Necessity of regular transactions in the account and preventing categorization into in-operative was the key message, SBI said in a statement.



India will revamp operations of non-bank lender IFCI Ltd by shutting its lending operations following capital constraints and converting it into an infrastructure advisory firm, two government sources told Reuters on 26 Nov. IFCI, launched in 1949 soon after the country's independence, was asked to stop fresh lending in 2021-22 after bad loans soared, depleting the lender's capital and liquidity.



At the Business Standard BFSI Insight Summit, held on November 6, heads of India's leading foreign banks unanimously spotlighted the country as “probably the biggest opportunity in the world.” In a conversation with Business Standard Consulting Editor Tamal Bandyopadhyay, industry leaders shared insights into India's growing prominence in

INDUSTRY



The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is seeking the Union Cabinet's approval for a Rs 40,000 crore package in December, aimed at enhancing domestic manufacturing of electronic components, according to a report by The Economic Times. The financial package is expected to include subsidies for capital expenditure and production-linked incentives (PLI) to encourage job creation and develop an ecosystem for electronic component manufacturing.



A senior Russian diplomat on November 27 said bilateral trade between the two countries has reached a record USD 66 billion in 2024, marking a fivefold increase over the past five years, with a 9 per cent rise in the first eight months of this year.



The automotive industry needs to do more in terms of driving in new electric cars to enhance customer response enabling higher adoption of such models, Advisor to Prime Minister at PMO Tarun Kapoor said on November 19. Speaking at the FICCI National Conference on Electric Vehicles, he noted that the government on its part will look at all aspects, including taxation issues so that the industry remains viable.

AGRICULTURE



The union cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a new Rs 2,481 crore National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), targeted at around 1 crore farmers by amalgamating all previous efforts made in this direction.



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on November 6 approved an equity infusion of Rs 10,700 crore in the state-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) to boost its working capital requirements for the current financial year (Fy25). The equity has been infused by converting the Ways and Means Advance into equity. A Ways and Means Advance (WMA) is a temporary loan given by the government to the FCI to meet mismatches in government receipts and payments. The FCI must repay the WMA by March 31 of the same financial year.



The Madhya Pradesh government will provide credit cards to those rearing cows and their progeny, similar to those available to farmers, to help manage the upkeep of cattle, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced on Saturday. Along with the people growing crops, credit cards will also be made available to those rearing cows and their progeny to enable them to manage expenses on their care, Yadav said during the state-level Govardhan Puja' ceremony at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal.

START-UP



Airbound, a drone technology startup, has raised a \$1.7 million seed round led by Lightspeed and saw participation from gradCapital as well as prominent angel investors. With this funding, Airbound will deploy its R&D efforts to initially focus on medical deliveries, such as transporting blood samples from health centers to testing labs. Once the system is proven at scale, it plans to expand into other applications including food and groceries delivery, where reducing logistics costs can significantly enhance profitability.



Drone technology company Marut Dronetech has raised \$6.2 million in Series A funding from impact investor Lok Capital for key initiatives, including development of advanced agricultural drones tailored to customer needs.

The funds would also help the company to channel partner network and service centres into Tier 2-3 cities to better serve rural customers. The firm is also establishing drone agriculture service hubs to offer Drone-as-a-Service with a partnership approach, the company said.



Anthropic said on Friday that longtime backer Amazon.com had pumped an additional \$4 billion into the artificial intelligence startup, doubling its investment in the firm known for its GenAI chatbot Claude.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT



The state government-run Skill Development Corporation and the HCL-TechBee have signed an MoU offering skill training for students who have passed out II PUC course with a minimum of 70% mark. The course is open across arts, commerce and science streams. Those who have passed the II PU exams early this year and those who will appear in the upcoming exams are also eligible, the Skill Development Department said in a media release.



The ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship (MSDE) entered into a partnership with Meta India to provide artificial intelligent (AI) assistant for the Skill India Mission and to establish five centers of excellence (CoEs) in virtual reality (VR) and mixed reality (MR) at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) located at Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Jodhpur, Chennai and Kanpur



The skills development and entrepreneurship ministry has reconstituted the Central Apprenticeship Council for a period of three years with effect from October 16, after the term of the previous council came to an end. As per the Central Apprenticeship Council Rules, 1962 under the Apprenticeship Act, 1961, the 55-member council is chaired by skills development minister Jayant Chaudhary.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Indian tech industry body Nasscom on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) to enable its member companies to engage with the West Asian city's fintech and innovation ecosystem and forge partnerships in the sector. As part of the MoU, the industry bodies will exchange sectoral insights and development strategies with each other.



The Cabinet on Monday approved the continuation of Niti Aayog's flagship initiative Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), with an enhanced scope of work and allocated budget of Rs 2,750 crore, till March 31, 2028. According to an official statement, AIM 2.0 is a step towards Viksit Bharat that aims to expand, strengthen, and deepen India's already vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.



A recent study by ISRO on whether the money invested in the space agency has benefited the society, found that for every rupee that the organisation spent, the return is Rs 2.50, said ISRO chairman S Somanath on Tuesday. Somanath was answering a question during the interaction with the students of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), organised by the Social Welfare Department and Science and Technology Department of the Government of Karnataka.

AUTO TECHNOLOGY



India is a “strategic market” for the Volkswagen Group, and it will continue to build on its product portfolio in the country, with or without a

partner to capitalise on the growth opportunities here, Piyush Arora, Managing Director & CEO of Skoda Auto Volkswagen India told ET.

Arora's statements come amid media reports of a potential equity partnership between the Volkswagen Group with Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M).



Ola Electric might be in the news for all the wrong reasons more often than not, credit has to be given to the Bengaluru-based EV manufacturer for

taking some significant leap in the electric two-wheeler space. The company is currently the highest-selling electric two-wheeler in the country with a market share between 30 to 35 percent.



Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has officially forayed into EV two-wheelers in India as it launched the electric version of its iconic

Activa scooter called the Activa e on November 27, along with another model called the QC1 with the former getting swappable batteries that can be exchanged in Honda's swapping stations

CSR



Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated 168 crib centres in the state for the dependent children of registered construction workers.

During the program organised at the Chief Minister's Camp Office on November 29, he also distributed 60 computers, funded by CSR, to the Labor Department and Employees State Scheme Offices.



The Indian School of Business (ISB) has received a CSR gift of Rs 30 crore from the Ramoji Foundation towards

aiding infrastructure development at the school's Hyderabad campus, the institute said in a release on November 21.

The funds received through this gift will support the construction of a state-of-the-art 430-seater auditorium as part of the upcoming Executive Centre.



Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma said his government has decided to remove non-performing employees from service.

During a meeting to review the initiatives of the Education department held in Aizawl, Lalduhoma on November 26 said that committees are being formed in departments to review the services of employees under the state government.

DEFENCE NEWS



India on Sunday said it did not support any measures to regulate the production of primary plastic polymers as it could impact the development rights of nations. This statement came as a global meeting in South Korea's Busan to finalise a legally binding treaty to combat plastic pollution ended without an agreement.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met his South Korean, Australian and New Zealand counterparts on the sidelines of 11th Asean Defence Ministers'

Meeting-Plus in Lao PDR.

He also met US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J Austin. In his meeting with South Korean Defence Minister Kim Yong Hyun, the Defence Minister emphasised that defence manufacturing ecosystems of the two nations had a great potential for growth in co-production and co-development.



Cochin Shipyard rallied 3.74% to Rs 1,636 after the company announced that it has signed a contract worth Rs 1,000 crore with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of India.

The contract is for short refit and dry docking of a large Indian Naval vessel. The estimated duration for the project is around 5 months.

ENERGY AND POWER



Green energy solutions provider Avaada Group has said it will invest Rs 5,800 crore to develop a 1200 MW pumped hydropower storage project in Rajasthan. The group has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop the Pumped Storage Project, a company statement said. The project comprises development of 1200 MW Kadambari PSP in the Sirohi district.



State-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has inked an initial pact with H2Global Stiftung to establish a collaborative framework to promote Green Hydrogen initiatives. This aims to enhance knowledge exchange on market-based mechanisms and foster cooperation between India and importing countries, thereby contributing to the global advancement of the green hydrogen economy, according to an official statement.



ONGC NTPC Green Private Ltd (ONGPL) has been incorporated as a 50:50 joint venture company of NTPC Green Energy Limited and ONGC Green Limited. While NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of power giant NTPC, ONGC Green Limited (OGL) is a subsidiary of oil major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). ONGPL has been incorporated as a 50:50 JV company of NGEL and OGL, NTPC said in an exchange filing on November 18.

INITIATIVES BY GOVT



The 22nd meeting of the India-Russia Working Group on Military technical cooperation and defence industry was held on November 22 in New

Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and A Boytsov, First Deputy Director of the Federal Service for Military Technical Cooperation of Russia.



The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, has approved construction of 2,280 km roads in border areas of Rajasthan and Punjab at an investment of Rs 4,406 crore emphasizing development of infrastructure in border areas.



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved One Nation One Subscription, a new Central Sector Scheme for providing country-wide access to scholarly research articles and journal publication. The scheme will be administered through a simple, user friendly and fully digital process. This will be a “One Nation One Subscription” facility for the government higher education institutions and R&D laboratories of the central government.

MEA



Foreign Secretary Sh. Vikram Misri co-chaired the 1st round of India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security, including Strategic Trade

and Technology, in Tokyo on 27 November 2024 along with Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Masataka OKANO. The Dialogue, attended by stakeholder Ministries, departments and agencies from both governments, was announced during the India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial meeting held in New Delhi on 20 August 2024.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the opening session of the G20 Summit on November 18 on 'Social Inclusion and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty'.

Prime Minister thanked the President of Brazil, H.E Mr. Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva, for hosting the Summit and for his gracious hospitality. He appreciated the Brazilian G20 agenda focused on Sustainable Development Goals, noting that this approach highlighted the concerns of the Global South and took forward the people-centric decisions of the New Delhi G20 Summit.



The Wilmington Declaration released at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Delaware, USA on 21 September 2024 stated that the Quad countries will work together, through policy and

public finance, to operationalise their commitment to catalyze complementary and high-standard private sector investment in allied and partner clean energy supply chains.

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS



Shri Dinesh Bhatia (IFS:1992), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Argentina has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India

to the Federative Republic of Brazil. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a statement said, “G. Balasubramanian, presently High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives, and is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



Shri Anurag Srivastava (IFS:1999), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Republic of Mauritius. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

INVEST INDIA



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on November 25 approved two hydropower projects

entailing an investment of Rs 3,689 crore in Arunachal Pradesh. After the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters that the CCEA approved an investment of Rs 1,750 crore for the construction of 186 MW Tato-I Hydro Electric Project and Rs 1,939 crore for 240 MW Heo Hydro Electric Project in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh



A consortium of Hitachi Energy India and BHEL has won an order from Power Grid Corporation for 800 kV HVDC link from Khavda in Gujarat to industrial centre of

Nagpur in Maharashtra. The project crosses 1,200 km and feeds into 500 GW renewable evacuation and interstate transmission system.



NTPC Green Energy Ltd has signed an agreement with NREDCAP to set up renewable energy projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu

Naidu said. NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL), the renewable energy arm of power giant NTPC, has recently launched its Rs 10,000 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) with a price band of Rs 102-108 per share.

Uganda Independence Day Celebrations



Dr. Deepak Jain, DG- FII attends Uganda Independence Day Celebrations in New Delhi

“Congratulations Uganda on 62 years of Independence”

It was a delight to share 62 years of Independence day celebrations with Uganda High Commissioner H.E. Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, and other senior High Commission officials, Govt of India officials and other Eminent industry persons.

Uganda is a young Nation with lot of potential and lot of energy and High Commission based in Delhi is going in proper direction with full throttle.

Our best wishes to Her Excellency and her support team.

FII signs of MOU with Uganda High Commission



We are pleased to announce signing of MOU between the Federation of Indian Industry (FII) and the High Commission of Republic of Uganda to promote bilateral economic engagement between Uganda and India.

The MOU was signed by Her Excellency Ambassador (Prof.) Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda and Mr. Hitender Mehta, Chairman, International Affairs Committee, FII in the august presence of Dr. Deepak Jain, Director General, FII on 22nd November 2024 at an event organised at the Uganda High Commission in New Delhi.

Amongst others, the following dignitaries were present at the time of signing of the MOU –

Dignitaries from High Commission of Republic of Uganda:

H.E. Amb. Margaret Lucy Kyogire, Deputy Head of Mission

Mr. Hannington Kananura, First Secretary

Col. Simon Peter Oyo, Defence Advisor

Mr. Baker Balunywa, Education Attaché

Ms. Sanyu Hope Nakibowa, Administrative Attaché

Dignitaries from Federation of Indian Industry:

Mr. Harbhajan Singh, Chairman, CSR Committee, FII

Mr. Shailender Vyas, Chairman, Start-up and Skill Development Committee, FII

Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairman, Media & IT Committee, FII

Mr. Uditendu Verma, Chairman, Social Outreach Committee, FII

Mr. Mukesh Sakhuja, Co-ordinator, Delhi Chapter, FII

Mr. Jatin Gupta, Core Team Member, FII

Ms. Ritu Jain, Advisor, FII



The MOU seeks to promote trade and investment relations, particularly in Education, Tourism, IT/ ITES, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, MSMEs and Skill Development sectors.

H.E. Amb. (Prof.) Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda extended a warm welcome to the delegates. Her Excellency explained in detail about business opportunities in Uganda and invited Indian industry and investors to consider Uganda as a potential business destination with enormous opportunities.

H.E. Amb. Margaret Lucy Kyogire, Deputy Head of Mission shared her insight on exploring Uganda as an excellent tourism destination.

Dr. Deepak Jain, DG, FII extended congratulations on signing of the MOU. Dr. Jain spoke in detail about possible areas of bilateral cooperation to augment economic engagement between the two nations. He mentioned that the possibility of mounting a business delegation to Uganda will be explored after industry consultation. Besides, he assured to extend all possible support to the students from Uganda for industrial training and skill development.

Mr. Hitender Mehta, Chairman, International Affairs Committee, FII highlighted that India is second largest FDI partner of Uganda and expected that the position will be further reinforced. He emphasized on beginning with a few business-focused initiatives and simultaneously enhancing social dialogue and people-to-people connect.

Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi inaugurates Global Cooperative Conference 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi



Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Cooperative Conference 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi also launched the United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives 2025 and released a commemorative postal stamp. On this occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Sh. Amit Shah, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, the Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji, the President of International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation, and several other dignitaries were present.

NIGERIA



At the invitation of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria H.E. Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Prime Minister visited Nigeria from 16-17 November, 2024. This was the first visit by a Prime Minister of India to Nigeria in 17 years. During the visit, Prime Minister will hold talks to review the strategic partnership between India and Nigeria and discuss further avenues to enhance the bilateral relationship. He also addressed a gathering of the Indian community in Nigeria. India and Nigeria have been strategic partners since 2007 with growing economic, energy and defence collaboration. More than 200 Indian companies have invested over USD 27 billion in important sectors in Nigeria. India and Nigeria also share a strong development cooperation partnership.

BRAZIL



Prime Minister also travelled to Rio De Janeiro during 18-19 November, 2024 to attend the G20 Summit hosted by the President of the Republic of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva. India is part of the G20 Troika along with Brazil and South Africa and has been actively contributing to the ongoing G20 Summit discussions. During the Summit, Prime Minister put forward India's positions on various issues of global importance and build on the outcomes from the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and Voice of the Global South Summits which were hosted by India in the past two years. On the sidelines of the G20 Summit, Prime Minister met several leaders.



At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Guyana, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Prime Minister undertook a State Visit to Guyana from 19-21 November, 2024. This visit to Guyana was the first by an Indian Prime Minister since 1968. Earlier in 2023, President Ali had visited India as the Chief Guest at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, when he was also awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. During the visit, Prime Minister held discussions with President Ali, met other senior leaders of Guyana, addressed the Parliament of Guyana and addressed a gathering of the Indian diaspora.

In Georgetown, Guyana, Prime Minister also participated in the Second CARICOM-India Summit and held meetings with leaders of CARICOM member countries to further enhance India's long-standing friendship with the region.

VIKSIT BHARAT: BRIDGING DATTOPANT THENGDI'S VISION WITH NEEDONOMICS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH



Prof. M.M. Goel

Former Vice-Chancellor superannuated
from Kurukshetra University,
Kurukshetra

In the landscape of Indian economic thought, diverse philosophies have emerged, each proposing unique pathways to achieve sustainable and equitable development towards Viksit Bharat in 2047. Among these, the ideas of Dattopant Thengdi, the founder of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and a prominent thinker in India's labor movement, align closely with the Needonomics School of Thought, advocated by Professor Madan Mohan Goel. Though these philosophies arose from different contexts, they share common values and principles aimed at building a more self-reliant, needs-based, and morally grounded economy. This article explores the intersection of Thengdi's economic ideology with Needonomics, illustrating how their converging visions can guide India toward a holistic, people-centered economic model. This reflection also serves as a tribute to Dattopant Thengdi on his 104th birth anniversary on November 10.

Foundation of Dattopant Thengdi's Economic Philosophy

Dattopant Thengdi (1920–2004) was a visionary leader who advocated for an economic system rooted in India's cultural and social values. He championed Swadeshi economics, prioritizing self-reliance, dignity of labor, and moral integrity in economic practices. Thengdi opposed both unbridled capitalism and socialism, viewing them as incompatible with India's socio-cultural fabric. His vision focused on creating an economic model that respects individual dignity while promoting collective welfare, emphasizing simplicity, self-sufficiency, and community-driven growth.

Thengdi's Swadeshi approach argued for a need-based development model, steering away from consumerism and material excess. By focusing on fulfilling essential needs rather than promoting unchecked consumption, he envisioned a balanced economy that ensures sustainable growth without depleting resources or compromising ethical standards.

Needonomics School of Thought

Professor Madan Mohan Goel's Needonomics School of Thought shares similar principles with Thengdi's vision. Drawing inspiration from Verse 9.22 of the Bhagavad Gita, Needonomics emphasizes distinguishing between needs and wants, advocating for an economy driven by necessities rather than excessive consumption and waste. This philosophy challenges the prevailing culture of materialism, promoting simplicity, moral values, and conscious economic decision-making.

Needonomics calls for modest consumption, equitable distribution, and sustainable resource use, shifting from "more is better" to "enough is enough." This approach addresses not only economic challenges but also promotes a lifestyle aligned with ethical principles and long-term societal well-being.

Key Similarities between Thengdi's Philosophy and Needonomics

Despite originating from different eras, the economic philosophies of Dattopant Thengdi and the Needonomics School of Thought share several core similarities:

- 1. Focus on Need-Based Living:** Both Thengdi and Prof.M.M. Goel emphasises distinguishing between needs and wants. Thengdi's Swadeshi economics discourages consumerism, advocating a lifestyle grounded in simplicity and essential needs. Likewise, Needonomics promotes a need-based approach to economic decisions, focusing on modest consumption and sustainable living.

2. Self-Reliance (Swadeshi): Thengdi's model underscores self-sufficiency, encouraging India to reduce dependence on foreign goods and foster local industry. Needonomics similarly champions self-reliance, emphasizing economic practices that prioritize indigenous resources and local needs over global consumer trends, thereby enhancing economic resilience and national dignity.

3. Moral and Ethical Foundation: Both philosophies stress the importance of moral values in economic practices. Thengdi's economic ideology was rooted in social responsibility, advocating for practices that benefit society rather than fueling individual greed. Similarly, Needonomics urges individuals and businesses to make ethical choices that align with the greater good.

4. Simplicity and Minimalism: Thengdi and Goel both advocate for simplicity in economic life. Thengdi believed in a straightforward, minimalistic lifestyle as a means to combat material excess and preserve cultural values. Needonomics echoes this by promoting a minimalist approach to consumption, emphasizing essentials over extravagance.

5. Labor and Human Dignity: With his background in labor leadership, Thengdi emphasized the importance of dignified labor and fair treatment of workers. He believed that economic systems should protect and honor labor as the backbone of society. Needonomics similarly values human dignity, advocating for policies that uplift individuals and promote equitable opportunities.

6. Sustainability and Long-Term Vision: Both Thengdi and Professor Goel highlight sustainability as a core principle. Thengdi's Swadeshi model and Goel's Needonomics discourage resource exploitation and emphasize responsible environmental stewardship. Both advocate for an economy that meets current needs without compromising the future.

7. Community-Oriented Development: Thengdi believed in community-driven progress, where economic policies align with the well-being of local communities. Needonomics reflects this by promoting policies that benefit society as a whole, fostering social cohesion rather than

catering to narrow interests.

Relevance of Thengdi's and Needonomics' Ideas in Today's Bharat

In today's rapidly globalizing, consumer-driven world, the philosophies of Dattopant Thengdi and the Needonomics School of Thought are more relevant than ever. India's economic progress is often measured through metrics like GDP and consumer spending, yet these metrics overlook the well-being of individuals and communities. By focusing on genuine needs and ethical growth, these philosophies present a model that balances material progress with social responsibility and environmental care.

Moreover, these ideas align with global movements toward sustainability and responsible consumption to be exactly needo-consumption as mindful consumption. As the world grapples with challenges like climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality, the principles of simplicity, morality, and self-reliance championed by Thengdi and Needonomics offer valuable insights for a holistic economic model in India.

Toward a Holistic Economic Model for Bharat to be Viksit

In conclusion, the converging visions of Dattopant Thengdi and the Needonomics School of Thought provide a framework for an economy that is both resilient and equitable. By emphasizing need-based living, ethical practices, and community welfare, these philosophies advocate for a model of development that serves not just economic growth but also social and moral progress.

In an era dominated by consumerism and globalization, Thengdi's Swadeshi philosophy and Needonomics remind us that sustainable and inclusive development can be achieved only by prioritizing human values over material excess. Together, they offer India a path to becoming a truly developed nation—one that upholds the dignity of every citizen and fosters a prosperous, self-reliant society rooted in enduring values.

The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.

WHY YOU SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS WHEN USING THIRD-PARTY LOAN APPS: OPPORTUNITIES, ISSUES AND RBI GUIDELINES



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In recent years, third-party loan apps have gained substantial popularity in India, especially with the proliferation of smartphones and increased internet access. These apps offer a convenient way for individuals to access quick loans without the need for extensive paperwork or long processing times, appealing to many in need of small, short-term financial assistance. However, these platforms bring with them a host of concerns, from high-interest rates and predatory lending practices to privacy violations and security risks. Recognizing the need to safeguard consumers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced specific guidelines to regulate digital lending apps and protect borrowers.

Issues Associated with Third-Party Loan Apps

Despite their benefits, third-party loan apps have raised significant concerns in India. These issues can be categorized as financial, ethical, and regulatory in nature.

High Interest Rates and Hidden Charges

Many loan apps offer credit at exorbitant interest rates, sometimes reaching over 30% annually, which can push borrowers into debt traps. Additionally, they often impose hidden charges that inflate the repayment amount, leading to unexpected financial stress for borrowers.

Predatory Lending Practices

Some loan apps engage in predatory practices, extending loans without properly assessing borrowers' ability to repay. When borrowers fail to repay, aggressive debt collection tactics, including harassment and intimidation, are often used. In some unfortunate cases, this has even led to extreme distress among borrowers.

Data Privacy and Security Concerns

Loan apps typically require users to grant permissions for accessing contacts, photos, location, and other sensitive information on their phones. This data can be misused, with certain apps allegedly leaking or selling personal data to third parties, violating users' privacy rights. In some cases, personal information is weaponized against borrowers to pressure them into repaying loans.

Lack of Transparency

Many third-party loan apps lack transparency regarding loan terms and conditions. Borrowers are not always adequately informed about interest rates, processing fees, and repayment schedules, leading to misunderstandings that can have serious financial repercussions.

Unlicensed and Unregulated Entities

The digital lending space in India has been flooded with numerous unregulated and unlicensed loan apps, many of which operate without proper authorization. This poses a risk to borrowers who, in the absence of regulatory oversight, have limited recourse if they experience fraud or harassment.

2. RBI Guidelines for Digital Lending in India

To address these issues, the RBI has stepped in to regulate digital lending apps. In August 2022, the

RBI issued comprehensive guidelines to protect consumers and ensure fair practices in the digital lending ecosystem. These guidelines encompass several critical aspects of digital lending:

Registration and Oversight

The RBI mandates that digital lending apps must be affiliated with a bank or a registered Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). They must comply with a regulatory framework and cannot operate independently without a valid association with a regulated financial institution.

Transparency and Disclosure

The guidelines require loan apps to clearly communicate loan terms, interest rates, fees, and repayment schedules before disbursement. This includes disclosing the Annual Percentage Rate (APR), ensuring borrowers understand the full cost of the loan.

Data Privacy and Security

To prevent misuse of borrower information, the RBI has directed digital lenders to seek explicit consent before accessing any personal data. Furthermore, the data collected by these apps should only be used for the purpose it was collected for, and users must be informed about data usage policies. Borrowers also have the right to withdraw their consent at any point.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

The RBI has made it compulsory for digital lenders to have a grievance redressal mechanism in place. Borrowers should have access to a clear process for lodging complaints, with timelines for resolution. Complaints that are not resolved at the company level can be escalated to the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS).

Limits on Recovery Practices

The guidelines also prohibit the use of coercive or intrusive recovery practices. Collection agents must

adhere to a code of conduct, and debt recovery should not infringe upon the privacy or dignity of borrowers. The RBI warns against the use of aggressive debt collection methods, including harassment.

Lending through Regulated Entities

Digital loan apps are required to act only as service providers and cannot themselves lend money. The actual lending process must be conducted by regulated entities like banks and NBFCs. This ensures that the lenders are accountable and regulated under the Indian financial system's legal framework.

Conclusion

Third-party loan apps in India have transformed the lending landscape, making loans accessible to many previously underserved populations. However, this accessibility has come at a cost, as the absence of adequate regulatory frameworks initially led to several consumer rights abuses. With the RBI's intervention, the digital lending landscape in India is moving towards greater transparency, accountability, and borrower protection.

While these guidelines mark a significant step forward, effective implementation and enforcement remain essential to curbing malpractice in the digital lending space. Borrowers, too, should exercise caution when using third-party loan apps, carefully reviewing the terms and conditions before agreeing to any loan offers. The RBI's proactive approach to regulating digital lending is a welcome step, aimed at making the system fairer and more secure for all. In the future, as the digital lending ecosystem matures, borrowers can expect an environment where they can access loans easily without fearing exploitation or compromise of personal data.

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WILL THE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY OF ANY COUNTRY BE CALLED SUCCESSFUL ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE BY GARNERING INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY?



Ms. Manju Dagar

Member, International Affairs
Committee-FII

Today is 26/11 but we Indians have a habit of forgetting what it is. Whenever Pakistan spilled blood on Mother India, we forgave it and not only forgave it, but from 1947 to 2019, India also kept giving it the title of most favored nation in the whole world, believe it or not. So let us try reviewing India's foreign policy at the time of the incident. Former Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon considers some of the main reasons for the Indian government's decision at that time not to attack Lashkar-e-Taiba or Pakistan. The first of these is international sympathy. Isn't it amazing that there was a terrorist attack in our country, our own people were killed, many families were destroyed, many were injured and the government of that time was thinking of getting international sympathy? It is difficult to call such a government a strong government that hesitates in taking decisions in the interest of the country.

Can the independent foreign policy of any country be driven by international sympathy? But such decisions were taken in India and we are still suffering its consequences even today. Pakistan kept shedding rivers of blood in our country and we kept embracing him. What was the helplessness of India that it kept on nurturing this canker sore and it kept hurting us continuously. It is doing so even today because there are not as many people who love Pakistan in Pakistan as there are in India even today.

You all will remember that on this day i.e. 26th November in 2008, Mumbai was attacked by the

terrorists of Pakistan's terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba. All these terrorists had come by sea route and attacked places of interest like Taj Hotel and Chhatrapati Shivaji Railway Terminal. These terrorists had terrorized Mumbai at that time, killing 175 people and injuring more than 300. However, our security forces were able to capture one terrorist, Ajmal Aamir Kasab, alive and killed the rest of them. It is noteworthy that Kasab was hanged in 2012.

Kasab's testimony during the legal proceedings and intelligence information made it completely clear that Pakistan was behind these attacks. Apart from Kasab, Pakistan-born terrorists Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi and Hafiz Saeed were the masterminds of this attack. Everything was present right in front but our government, despite knowing everything, decided to do nothing just to get international sympathy. But have we really received that international sympathy till date? You must think that there is no such term as international sympathy in independent foreign policy. At that time, after much debate, the Indian government had decided not to take retaliatory military action against Pakistan. There has been a controversy over this decision and those opposed to the decision have seen it as a weakness.

Former Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon also cites the Pakistani politics of that time as another reason for not attacking Pakistan. According to him, at that time a new civilian government was elected in Pakistan. This new government led by Asif Ali Zardari wanted better relations with India. At that time, India's attack would have united the Pakistani people behind the Pakistan Army and weakened the civilian government of Pakistan, which according to

Mr. Menon wanted to improve relations with India, this would have harmed the relations between India and Pakistan. Someone should ask Mr. Menon today, whether there is a civilian government in Pakistan or a Pakistan Army government, and should Indians sacrifice their lives to keep their civilian government alive? There was a terrorist attack on our country and our people died, families were destroyed and our then Indian government was worried about the stability of the civilian government of Pakistan? It becomes pertinent to ask this question to Mr. Rahul Gandhi of Congress if there have been any civilian governments in Pakistan after 2008. This question is being raised Mr. Rahul Gandhi because just as Mrs. Indira Gandhi was once synonymous with Congress, similarly today Mr. Rahul Gandhi is synonymous with Congress.

On this attack of 26/11, I would like to say in the end that on that day, India was defeated on the international stage. Pakistan could not remove the stains of terrorism through blood-soaked repression. It remains to be understood if they were showing their cowardice by not attacking Pakistan in retaliation or our then Congress government was helping in furthering terrorism in Pakistan. I have a very clear opinion that there is no place for international sympathy in the independent foreign policy of any country. As another example, we should look at the current Russia-Ukraine war. Are all NATO countries and America helping Ukraine because of international sympathy? The answer is no, rather everyone has their own selfish interests at work here. For another example, look at Israel and the Hamas terrorist organization in Gaza. Would Israel have been garnering international sympathy if it had not been attacking the Hamas terrorist organization in Gaza? The truth is that Israel is getting full international sympathy only after attacking with bravery and courage and those who are opposing are those who want to keep raising pythons like Hamas. Therefore, before every election, Indian people should think that only a strong government can take decisions in the interest of the country, hence elect a strong government and stand firmly behind that government by becoming its strength. This country of India is ours, save it while there is time, otherwise destruction like Pakistan will not take long to come here.

Will the independent foreign policy of any country be called successful on the international stage by garnering international sympathy?



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THE NECESSITY OF COMMUNICATION BEFORE MARRIAGE: BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR A STRONG RELATIONSHIP



Ms. Jyoti Jain

FII Member
Cognitive Behavioral Counsellor,
International Vedic Math Expert

As the marriage season begins in India, the air fills with excitement and celebration. However, while the rituals and festivities are memorable, the true essence of marriage lies in the partnership that follows. For a marriage to flourish, communication is essential. Engaging in open, honest conversations before marriage helps couples understand each other deeply and builds a strong foundation for their shared life.

Marriage brings together two individuals with unique personalities, values, and experiences. While love and compatibility are vital, effective communication is the key to bridging differences and fostering understanding. Discussing topics like financial planning, career aspirations, family dynamics, and personal boundaries helps partners align their expectations. For instance, talking about money management or future parenting approaches prevents misunderstandings that could arise later. Beyond practical matters, communication deepens

emotional intimacy, a cornerstone of a lasting relationship. Sharing fears, dreams, and vulnerabilities creates trust and strengthens the bond. Open dialogue also equips couples to resolve conflicts constructively, ensuring that disagreements bring growth instead of distance.

However, communication doesn't always come naturally. Cultural norms, personal inhibitions, or fear of judgment can hinder expression. Differing communication styles or unresolved past experiences may also lead to misunderstandings. When such barriers exist, seeking guidance from a counselor can be immensely helpful.



Premarital counseling provides couples with tools to navigate challenges and enhance their relationship. A counselor creates a safe, neutral space where partners can express themselves openly. By identifying and addressing communication barriers, counselors help couples develop

healthier ways to interact. For example, they teach the use of "I-statements," which encourage expressing feelings without assigning blame, fostering understanding instead of defensiveness.

Active listening techniques are another valuable skill counselors teach. Learning to listen empathetically allows partners to validate each other's feelings and strengthens emotional intimacy. A counselor also facilitates structured conversations on important topics, ensuring both partners feel heard and aligned on significant aspects of their future, such as long-term goals or family planning.

Cultural or familial expectations, which are often pronounced in Indian marriages, can sometimes add stress. Counselors assist couples in balancing personal preferences with family traditions, helping them navigate these complexities as a team. By doing so, couples develop a shared approach to managing external influences without compromising their relationship.

Counseling is not just about resolving concerns; it's also a way to celebrate the strengths of the relationship. Counselors encourage couples to reflect on what they value in each other and recognize the qualities that make their bond special. This positive reinforcement nurtures connection and fosters a sense of gratitude.

Couples who prioritize communication before marriage often enter their union with clarity and confidence. They understand each other's needs, respect each other's boundaries, and share a vision for their future. This mutual understanding not only reduces potential conflicts but also lays the groundwork for a harmonious and fulfilling relationship.

In the midst of wedding preparations, it's important to remember that the true beauty of marriage lies in the strength of the partnership being formed. Communication before marriage is not just beneficial—it's essential. By engaging in meaningful

conversations and seeking guidance when needed, couples can build a relationship rooted in trust, understanding, and love.

As the celebrations unfold, let communication and connection be the most cherished gifts that couples give to each other. With these as their foundation, they can embark on a journey of shared joy, resilience, and lifelong companionship.



The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.



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“FII is working in synergy with the changing defence front and revival of water resources.”

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“I have great faith in the Federation of Indian Industry to keep working towards bringing the two Nations – India and New Zealand together.”

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“FII is working towards building stronger ties between India and Nepal” through continued exchange of new business opportunities.”

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“FII stands to see and protect the interests of MSME industry. It is making efforts to engage leaders to support growth of Indian Industry.”

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“Indian Industry is entering new dynamics in terms of innovation, technology, upgradation and FII is actively doing great work to protect these interests and build an international platform for Indian businesses.”

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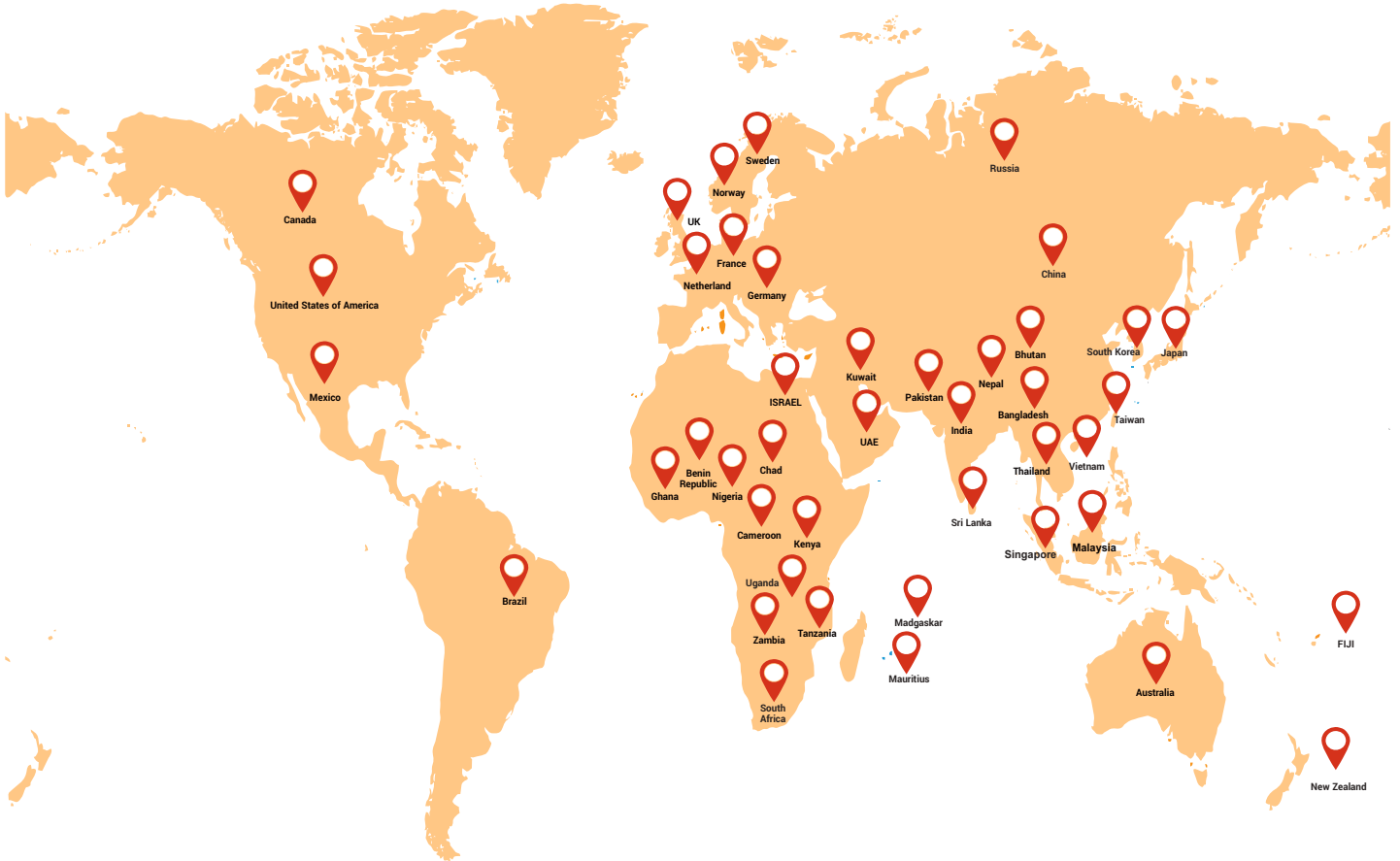
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“FII embodies the vision of Mr. Deepak Jain of making India self reliant through knowledge based reforms in the Indian Industry.”

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31	Sh. Arun Bansal, FII-Advisor	FII Advisor
32	Dr. Dravya Jain, FII-Advisor	FII Advisor

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3. Be up to date about govt. schemes to gain maximum advantage for business interests

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1. Networking opportunities with Indian Sectoral Experts across different verticals
2. Networking with Global Leaders, counterparts in all continents
3. Opportunity to connect with 5000 industry members all over India
4. Platform to meet global business and political leaders
5. Opportunity to participate in seminars, conferences and B2B meetings

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3. Opportunity to establish visibility of your business via ads in FII Newsletter
4. Support regarding Finance, upgradations, investment opportunities, healthcare, sports etc
5. Weekly Awareness programme “Talk with an Expert” inviting experts/departmental heads to discuss policies, new laws, startups, MSMEs, Legal, Financial Issues, Corporates etc
6. General body meeting with all FII members
7. Participation in development activities like webinars, symposiums, workshops, seminars, buyer seller activities and other activities related to industry.

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 - Water Resources
 - Goods & Service Tax
 - CSR
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 - Human Resource Development
 - Agriculture
 - Banking & Finance
 - Corporate Insolvency & Restructuring
 - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
 - Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Fintech
 - Goods & Services Tax (GST)
 - Health
 - Media & IT
 - Startup & Skill Development
 - Social Communication & Outreach
 - Road Safety & Traffic Awareness
 - Entrepreneurial Skill Development
 - Women Empowerment
 - Support Children with Special Needs
 - Sports & Recreation
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3. We provide help in revival of sick units with experts on every domain
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5. Empower Indian Businesses in their global outreach for business expansion
6. Opportunity to take part in FII Overseas Business Delegations

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- Assisting Indian businesses to expand in 42 Nations where FII has its Country Chapters
- Help from FII Investment Desk, which ensures safety and security of investment in foreign land
- Our strengthened relations with International Consulates helps easing of setting up business internationally
- We support our members in case of any dispute arises in overseas projects and the implementation.
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- Support for international exhibitions, stalls in all continents
- Networking opportunities for overseas B2B, B2G

- Take advantage of FII Partnerships with International Associations
- Opportunity to participate in International Business Delegations
- Assistance to Overseas Business for setting up operations in India

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- Promoting brotherhood and Business Networking among Indian Diaspora
- Creating Awareness for Indian Diaspora to Business Opportunities in India
- International Conferences on side-lines of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas to facilitate networking across eminent businesspersons
- Celebration of Indian & International Holidays in synergy to recognize and promote International Brotherhood

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FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

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2	Malwa Chamber of Commerce (MCC)	27	Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak
3	Invest Global	28	Europe Asia Business Connect UG (EABC), Germany
4	EVA Global Holdings	29	Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, Delhi
5	Indian Space Association	30	Digital Agriculture Association (DAA)
6	Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University	31	Haryana Sarkar
7	Canadian Hindu Chamber of Commerce (CHCC)	32	Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation
8	UK Asian Business Council	33	People of Indian Origin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PIOCCI)
9	All India Cotton FPO Association	34	Haryana Swarna Utsav
10	Russian Aluminium Association	35	Public Works Department (PWD)
11	MP Industrial Development Corporation	36	National Association of Software and Service Companies
12	National Association of Software and Service Companies	37	Edelweiss Financial Services
13	Shriram Institute for Industrial Research	38	Beti & Shiksha Foundation
14	Global Kashmir Pandit Business Foundation (GKPBF)	39	4th International Oil & Gas Chemistry, Chemicals and Additives Conference (IOGCA 2021)
15	Chaudhary Bansi Lal University Bhiwani	40	Japan Education Center In India (JECI)
16	Japan Education Center In India (JECI)	41	New Zealand India Trade Alliance Limited
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18	Manufacturers' Association Faridabad (MAF)	43	PIO Services Private Limited
19	Sport Physical Education Fitness And Leisure Skills Council	44	Dell Technologies
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25	Kisan Chamber of Commerce (KCC)		

Renowned Singer Sharda Sinha, A Padma Bhushan Recipient, Dies At 72



Sharda Sinha
1952-2024

Noted folk singer Sharda Sinha passed away on 5th November 2024 night at the age of 72. She was undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-Delhi.

Sharda Sinha expired at 9.20 pm due to refractory shock as a result of septicemia," PTI quoted an AIIMS official as saying. The legendary classical singer was famous for "Kartik Maas Ijoriya" and "Koyal Bin" folk songs and a number of Bollywood hits. The list of Bollywood favourites included "Taar Bijli" from "Gangs of Wasseypur- II" and "Babul" from "Hum Aapke Hain Koun". Sinha was also famous for her Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Maghahi songs.











Shyamdev Rai Chaudhary
1939-2024

PM Modi and Akhilesh Yadav condole death of 7-time BJP MLA Shyamdev Rai Chaudhary

Senior BJP leader and seven-time MLA from Varanasi South Shyamdev Rai Chaudhary died at a hospital in Varanasi on 26th November, a local BJP leader said.

Chaudhary, who was 85 years old, was ailing for some days. He was popularly known as 'Dada'. BJP Mahanagar president Vidyasagar Rai said Chaudhary was admitted to a private hospital in Mahmoorganj after he suffered a brain haemorrhage.

DAYS TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER 2024

1 November	 Algeria	Revolution Day
9 November	 Cambodia	Independence Day
9 November	 Nepal	Constitution Day
11 November	 Poland	Independence Day
18 November	 Oman	Birthday of Sultan Qaboos
18 November	 Latvia	Independence Day
22 November	 Lebanon	Independence Day
28 November	 Albania	Independence Day

Date	Day	Festivals
November 2, 2024	Saturday	Govardhan Puja Annakut
November 3, 2024	Sunday	Bhai Dooj Yama Dwitiya Chitragupt Puja Chandra Darshan
November 7, 2024	Thursday	Chhath Puja
November 12, 2024	Tuesday	Devutthana Ekadashi
November 14, 2024	Thursday	Children's Day
November 15, 2024	Friday	Guru Nanak Jayanti

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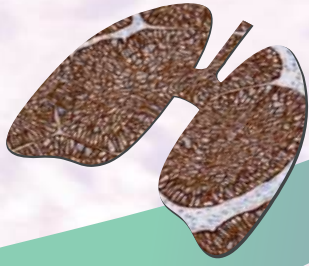
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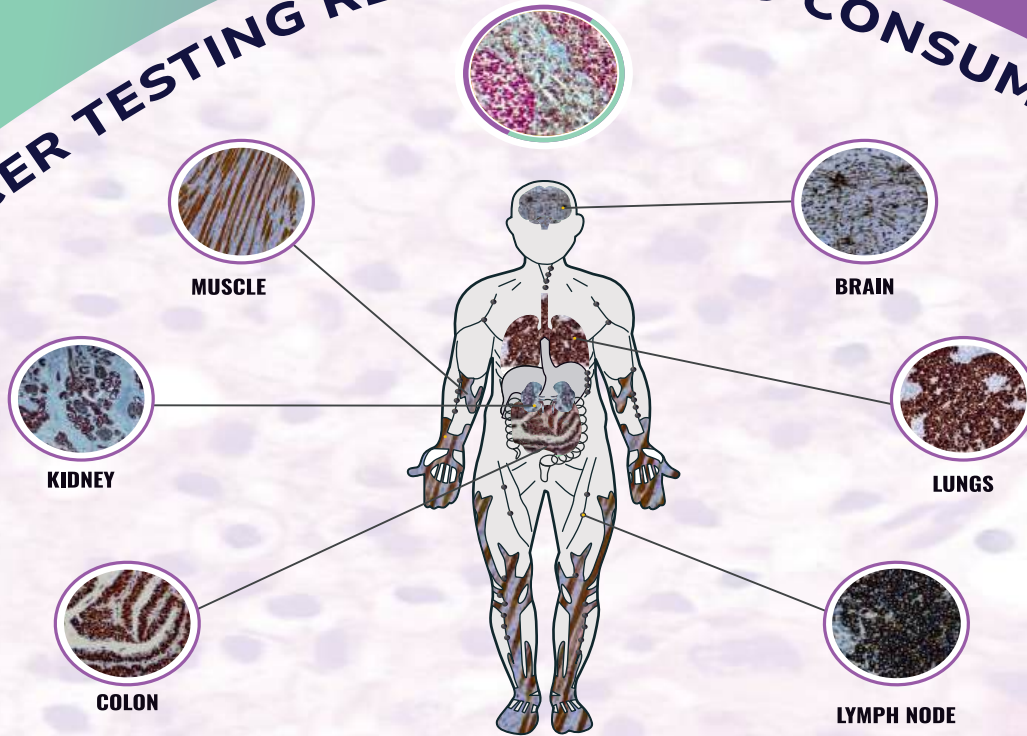
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