

India-UAE bilateral investment treaty comes into effect

New Delhi, (UNI)

The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) giving continuity of investment protection to investors of both countries has come into effect, the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Monday. "The enforcement of this new BIT with UAE gives continuity of investment protection to investors of both the countries, as the earlier Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIP-PA) between India and UAE signed in December 2013 expired on 12th September, 2024," the Ministry said. The Finance Ministry said that BIT signed on 13th February, 2024 at Abu Dhabi, UAE



between India and UAE entered into force with effect from 31st August, 2024. The UAE is the seventh largest investor with a share of 3% in the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received in India,

with cumulative investment of approximately \$19 billion from April 2000-June 2024.

India also makes 5% of its total Overseas Direct Investments in UAE to the tune of \$15.26 Billion

from April 2000-August 2024. "India-UAE BIT 2024 is expected to increase the comfort level and boost the confidence of the investors by assuring minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination while providing for an independent forum for dispute settlement by arbitration.

However, while providing investor and investment protection, balance has been maintained with regard to State's right to regulate and thereby provides adequate policy space," Finance Ministry said. Some of the key features of India-UAE BIT include closed asset-based definition of investment with coverage of portfolio investment, general and security exceptions and right to regulate for state.



Ather Energy announces special festive offers up to 25K on its 450X and 450 Apex Scooters

Ather Energy, a pioneer in the electric two-wheeler market in India, announced special festive offers for its 450X and 450 Apex scooters. The offers include extended battery warranty, free Ather Grid charging, cash discounts, as well as cashback offers, and provides benefits of up to ₹25,000 on the 450X and 450 Apex.

In addition to these benefits, customers can also avail of up to ₹10,000 cashback on select credit card EMI transactions, bringing the total benefits up to ₹25,000.

Special Offers on 450 Apex, The 450 Apex is the latest addition to the 450 product line and stands out for its performance. This festive season, Ather is offering the Apex with the same ₹25,000 worth of total benefits as the 450X.

Ather's 450 series of scooters combines performance, technology, and reliability. The 450X with the 2.9 kWh battery and the 450X with the 3.7 kWh battery offer an IDC range of 111km and 150km, respectively and a top-speed of 90km/h. The 450 Apex offers an IDC range of 157 km and a top-speed of 100km/h. The scooters have features like AutoHold™, FallSafe™, and a 17.7cm (7") TFT touchscreen with Google Maps Platform integration. In addition, features such as WhatsApp notifications on Dashboard enhance the connectivity of the rider. Tow & Theft notifications and Find My Scooter further ensure an overall seamless riding experience. Moreover, the 450 Apex comes with the MagicTwist™ feature, which allows you to accelerate and decelerate using the same throttle.

Ather Energy is also committed to setting up charging infrastructure to ensure a seamless and hassle-free experience for riders. Its network of fast-charging stations for two-wheelers, known as the Ather Grid, provides access to 2152 fast-charging points across the country. The company currently has 230 Experience Centers across the country, where customers can test ride and purchase Ather scooters. Ather has 2 manufacturing plants in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, one each for vehicle assembly and battery manufacturing and an upcoming third manufacturing facility in Bidkin, AURIC, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra.

Hyd: BCS introduces four AI-enabled products into market

Hyderabad, (UNI): Blue Cloud Softech (BCS), a Hyderabad-based software solutions firm, launched four new Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled products—BluHealth Application, Blura, EduGenie, and BioSter—into the Indian market on Monday. Telangana IT and Industry Minister, D. Sridhar Babu, who inaugurated the products, emphasized the importance of technology and innovation in bringing about systematic and qualitative changes in people's lives. Highlighting the transformative potential of AI, he noted that modern technology facilitates greater transparency, accountability, and productivity across various sectors. Sridhar Babu pointed out the significance of AI in addressing critical challenges in healthcare and education and expressed optimism about the impact these new products would have. "AI and digital solutions are creating new opportunities, breaking barriers, and driving systematic changes in governance, healthcare, and education," he stated. The Minister also praised BCS for its efforts to harness AI and disruptive technologies, noting that such innovations contribute significantly to the state's ambition of becoming a global hub for AI. Discussing the broader implications of AI, Sridhar Babu underscored the role of AI in revolutionizing healthcare services and pointed to the rapid growth of the global digital health market, which is projected to reach USD 258.30 billion by 2029. He emphasized the need for local companies to leverage AI to create products that are not only effective but also accessible and affordable to a broader audience. He also shared Telangana's vision of creating a 200-acre global AI city that will serve as a hub for AI research, development, and innovation, fostering collaboration and job creation.

Customers In Madhya Pradesh Enjoy Convenient & Rewarding Payments with Amazon Pay During the Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024

Bhopal/Gwalior: Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024 is live on Amazon.in and aims to reach millions of customers across the country. Amazon Pay today announced the trends observed for digital payment adoption in the city. Customers in Indore are embracing the convenience of Amazon Pay UPI, with a significant 35% choosing it for their Amazon.in purchases. This trend extends beyond online shopping, as the city witnessed growth in everyday use-cases of Amazon Pay UPI for bill payments (39%), money transfers (16%), payments at online merchants (13%), and even payments at offline merchants (18%). Customers in Madhya Pradesh popularly choose Amazon Pay UPI for its convenience, rewarding experi-



ence, and secure transactions. This includes uses like mobile recharges, bill payments, scanning and paying at stores, sending money, and purchasing gift cards.

During Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024, Amazon.in witnessed strong engagement on the day 1 ex-

clusively for Prime customers, with a 20X surge in transactions in Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card remained the preferred payment method in the state for its attractive cashback offers and seamless user experience. Transactions surged by a remarkable 46 times during the first two days of Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024, compared to the pre-sale period.

Girish Krishnan, Director - Payments and Merchant Services, Amazon Pay India, said, "At Amazon Pay, we strive to make digital payments trusted, convenient, and rewarding for our customers. The payment trends in Indore reflect the growing trust and adoption of Amazon Pay across the state.

Capri Loans Unveils Capri AI-Dost

Mumbai: Capri Global Capital Ltd (Capri Loans), a leading non-banking financial company, proudly announces the launch of Capri AI-Dost, AI-driven ChatBot designed to assist users by resolving their loan-related queries at anytime, from anywhere. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Group CTO, Capri Global, said: "We are thrilled to introduce Capri AI-Dost, as we embark on the digital transformation journey of our processes. We have kept customer centricity at the heart of this effort. This innovative technology is designed to provide quick and accurate information and help customers 24x7 to understand their journey at Capri Loans with minimal human intervention. Additionally, due to the intuitive nature of this AI ChatBot, we will be able to better assist the needs of our customers and bring further efficiencies

in the system. At Capri, we focus on providing seamless service to enhance the customer experience by leveraging technology and our digital platforms. Capri AI-Dost allows users to receive instant answers to their loan-related questions thus enhancing customer satisfaction. The chatbot facility is available to the customer outside of normal business hours and caters to customers' needs as and when they arise. The service is currently available in 18 Indian languages. Potential loan applicants, existing borrowers and businesses or SMEs can avail the service. Capri AI-Dost is a simple, intuitive interface that allows users to easily engage with the ChatBot and receive real-time relevant information pertaining to eligibility criteria, documentation, tenure options, interest rates, repayment schedules and application status checks.

ORRA's Festive Fiesta: Stunning New Jewellery and Exciting Offers Kickstart from Navratri



With the festive season kicking in, and Navratri and Dussehra celebrations just around the corner, ORRA Fine Jewellery unveiled its latest Festive Collections featuring exquisite diamond studded Mangal-

sutras crafted to reflect the grace and tradition of this vibrant period. With consumers looking to accessorize their trendy festive look, ORRA has come up with diamond pendant sets that will capture the essence

of timeless elegance and traditional design philosophy that exudes festivity and accentuates their look. From intricate diamond designs to grand statement pieces, ORRA has designed each jewellery with the modern woman in mind. ORRA is also presenting the exquisite Mangalsutras, a new collection where modern luxury meets timeless tradition, and each meticulously crafted design will become the perfect statement piece for women to wear during this festive celebration. Adorned with dazzling diamonds and

intricate goldwork, embodying a perfect balance of sophistication and cultural reverence, the new Mangalsutra collection will glamorize each festive look this season. Complementing this is the opulent diamond Pendants. These pendants, renowned for their delicate artistry and spectacular diamonds, will elevate any ensemble with their minimalist yet undeniable glamour. Each pendant will be a testament to refined taste, offering a touch of elegance for Navratri and Dussehra festivities.

Kotak Mutual Fund Launches Kotak MNC Fund NFO: An Avenue to Invest in Multinational Corporations across Sectors and Geographies

Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd ("KMAMC" / "Kotak Mutual Fund") is pleased to announce the launch of the Kotak MNC Fund, an open-ended equity scheme following the Multinational Companies (MNC) theme. This fund provides investors with an opportunity to invest in leading MNCs, leveraging their growth potential and stability. The diversified portfolio spans various sectors, geographies, and market caps. The scheme will be open for public subscription from October 7, 2024, to October 21, 2024.



ational companies known for their strong global brand presence, advanced operational and technological advantages, exceptional management quality, and financial robustness. These companies span various sectors and have significant international exposure. The fund offers investors a diversified portfolio, leveraging the long-term growth potential of these well-established global corporations.

The Kotak MNC Fund aims to generate long-term capital growth by investing in equity and equity-related securities of multinational companies. The fund has the flexibility to invest across various market capitalizations, with exposure to large, mid, and small-cap companies. Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, KMAMC, said, "Multinational Corporations lead the way with research, innovation, and technology. These companies excel across various geographies and have proven business models with strong moats. The Kotak MNC Fund aims to leverage the strengths of these Multinational Companies, offering investors access to market leaders across sectors, geographies, and market caps.



Sensex drops 638.45 pts

Mumbai, (UNI): The equity market remained under pressure for the sixth straight session on Monday, with the BSE Sensex plummeting 638.45 pts at 81,050.00 at close following tension between Israel and Iran. Investors may remain cautious ahead of the RBI monetary policy meeting to be announced on Wednesday. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) fell 218.85 pts at 24,795.75. High volatility was witnessed on Monday, as the Sensex opened in a recovery mode at 81,926.99, up 238 pts. It rallied 449 pts at 82,137.77, a day high.

Airtel Business partners with Fortinet

Kolkata, (UNI)

Airtel Business, the B2B arm of Bharti Airtel (Airtel), one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, has leveraged new-age cybersecurity solutions from Fortinet, a global cybersecurity leader driving the convergence of networking and security, to launch 'Airtel Secure Internet' — a new-age internet security solution offering a robust and fully-managed defence against cyber threats.



It offers comprehensive, end-to-end protection through Airtel's state-of-the-art Security Operations Centre (SOC) and Fortinet's Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR) platform, ensuring robust management and defence against cyber threats. Sharat Sinha, CEO - Airtel Business, said, "Cybersecurity is becoming increasingly complex and many organisations lack the resources to manage it effectively. We have been pioneers in offering inclusive Cyber Secured ILL in the Indian market. With the launch of yet another innovative security solution — 'Airtel Secure Internet' — we offer a comprehensive, future-proof solution that strengthens enterprises' security without the burden of high capex."

The unique solution is designed specifically to enhance security over Internet Lease Line (ILL) circuits, combining Airtel's trusted internet connectivity with Fortinet's next-generation firewall, according to a media statement here on Monday.

Tata Motors introduces CAMO special edition of India's #1 selling car Tata Punch



Mumbai: Tata Motors, India's leading SUV manufacturer, today introduced a special, limited period CAMO edition of India's #1 selling car, Tata Punch. Now available in a striking new Seaweed Green color with complementing white roof, R16 charcoal grey alloy wheels, and premium upholstery fea-

turing a unique CAMO themed pattern, this edition also introduces first-in-segment features like a 10.25-inch infotainment system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. The addition of comfort-tech features such as a wireless charger, rear AC vents, and a fast C-type USB charger and a grand con-

sole with armrest, further elevate the adventurous spirit, premium quotient and driving experience of the Tata Punch CAMO. Available at an attractive starting price of INR 8,44,900 Lakhs (ex-showroom New Delhi), the Punch CAMO can now be booked on the Tata Motors website. Launching the Tata Punch CAMO edition, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "Since its launch in October 2021, the Punch has received much appreciation for its stunning design, versatile and engaging performance, spacious interiors and absolute safety.

It established a new segment by successfully democratizing key SUV attributes and offering a comprehensive

package within a compact footprint. A rich value proposition, perfect combination of style with functionality and ever-growing popularity has made Tata Punch the highest-selling vehicle across all segments in FY25. On popular demand, we are reintroducing another limited CAMO edition of the Punch. Amidst the ongoing festive fervor, it will offer customers another reason to bring home their favorite SUV." The Punch stands tall as India's safest sub-compact SUVs, having earned a prestigious 5-Star rating under the 2021 GNCAP safety norms. With its robust design, 187 mm ground clearance, commanding driving position, and the ability to effortlessly tackle diverse Indian terrains, the Punch delivers a thrilling driving experience.

Retail vehicle sales plummet 9.26 pc in September: FADA

New Delhi, (UNI)

Overall retail vehicle sales slumped 9.26% year-on-year (YoY) in September 2024 to 17,23,330 units despite automakers offering discounts to prop up sales, according to data released by auto dealers' body Federation of Automobile Dealers Association on Monday.

The total vehicle sales were 18,99,192 units in September last year.

"Despite the onset of festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam, dealers have reported that the performance has been largely stagnant. This suggests that overall market sentiment during these festive periods has been underwhelming, with a trend leaning towards flat or negative growth," said FADA President C S Vigneshwar.

Vigneshwar said that Shradh period (considered an inauspicious period when many people hold new purchases) further impacted sales negatively, leading to a YoY decline in retail sales across various categories. He further said that discounts



and offers have been introduced across segments to stimulate demand, but these have yet to translate into a significant improvement in sales.

FADA stated that passenger vehicle dealers are facing all time high inventory levels of 80-85 days, equivalent to 7.9 lakh vehicles worth Rs 79,000 crore due to aggressive OEM dispatches.

As per the trade body, barring three-wheelers and tractors, which grew by 0.66% and 14.69% YoY, respectively, in September this year, other categories such as two-wheelers, passenger vehicles, and commercial vehicles fell by 8.51%, 18.81%, and 10.45% YoY, respectively.

The two-wheeler sales declined by 10% month-on-month (MoM) and 8.5% YoY due to low consumer sentiment, poor enquiries, and reduced walk-ins. Seasonal factors like the Shradh period, Pitrapaksha, and heavy rains further impacted demand, resulting in delayed purchases and a subdued market environment.

