Veo 3 is free for this weekend on a trial: Google

New Delhi, (UNI)

Google announced that its advanced 'Veo 3' model will be free for users this weekend.

As part of this trial, users can create up to 3 videos with this platform, and the Veo 3 model will be accessible to free users via the Gemini app till 10 PM Pacific Time (PT) on Sunday as per the official post of Google on X.

Google posted on its X " Slide into the weekend with 3 video generations at no cost with Veo 3 in the Gemini App. But act fast–you have from now until Sunday, 8/24 at 10 PM PT."

"Veo3 is now free for the weekend for everyone to try—can't wait to see what you'll create!" says Sundar Pichai on X, responding to the post of Google.

Veo 3 is Google's cutting-edge, text-to-video generative AI model with the capacity to create high-fidelity, cinematic videos with synchronised audio from simple text prompts.

This model was recently introduced by Google at the I/O developer conference in May 2025. 'Veo 3' was only available to paid users, and the tool achieved great popularity due to its advanced video creation capabilities.

CII Madhya Pradesh Hosts 36th Quality Circle Competition in Indore

Indore: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Madhya Pradesh organized the 36th State Level Quality Circle Competition in Indore, bringing together 26 teams from 20 companies to showcase innovative problem-solving and best practices from the shop floor.

The competition provided a platform for employees engaged in quality circles to exchange ideas and learn from each other's experiences, reinforcing the culture of continuous improvement across industries.

After an engaging round of presentations and Q&A with the jury, the following teams emerged as winners:

Appreciation prizes were given toRajratan Global Wire Limited, VE Powertrain, John Deere&Vardhman Yarns, Satlapur.

Congratulating the winners, Mr. Pankaj Goyal, Chairman, CII Malwa Zone, praised their commitment to efficiency and innovation, noting that such initiatives help strengthen India's quality movement.

The winners will now represent Madhya Pradesh at the regional round in the coming months.

Major Industries Unite to Promote Regenerative Agriculture in Edible Oils

Bhopal/Indore: In a landmark development for India's edible oil sector, leading industry associations, research institutions, government bodies and civil society organizationshavecometogethertoestablishaNationalAllianceforRegenerativeVegetableOil Sector (NARVOS) in Bhopal. At the event, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) announced its commitment, along with 800 member companies, to buy back regenerative products. Anchored by Solidaridad, the platform will drive the large-scale transition towards regenerative agriculture-an approach that restores soil health, enhances productivity, and strengthensfarmers'resilienceto-climatechange.Thisinitiativeisbeingtakenundertheu-India partnershiponregenerativeagriculture,whichseekstopromoteclimate-resilientfoodsystems, sustainable value chains, and farmer-centric innovations.

Thealliancebringstogetherinfluentialbodiessuchastheu-SolventExtractors'AssociationofIndia (SEA), SOPA, AWL Agri business and the Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), marking a decisive step toward reducing India's edible oil import dependency, improving farmer livelihoods, and positioning the country as a global leader in sustainable vegetable oils.

India currently meets nearly 60% of its edible oil demand through imports, spending over ?1.5 lakh crore (USD 18 billion) annually. At the same time, declining soil fertility and unsustainable farming practices threaten the long-term viability of oilseed production across 27 million hectares. With over 55% of India's land already degraded (ICAR estimate), the need for nature- positive solutions has never been more urgent.

Regenerative agriculture offers a proven pathway forward. Practices such as low-till farming, cover cropping, intercropping, and compost use have demonstrated the potential to increase yields by 20-40% while cutting fertilizer and pesticide costs by up to 50%.

India's office leasing soars 40 percent in H1 2025, driven by Tech, GCC expansion

Kolkata, (UNI)

India's commercial office real estate sector achieved exceptional growth in the first half of 2025, with net office leasing surging 40 percent year-on-year to 26.8 million square feet across the top seven cities.

Bengaluru maintained market leadership with 6.55 million square feet of absorption, while Pune emerged as the fastest-growing market with 188 pc growth.

"New office supply increased 25 pc to 24.51 million square feet, creating balanced market dynamics. Vacancy rates improved marginally to 16.3 pc,

and average rentals grew 4 pc to Rs 88 per square foot per month. The IT-ITES sector dominated with 29% market share, followed by co-working spaces at 22 pc," according to ANAROCK Group's managing director, commercial leasing & advisory, Peush Jain.

He said today that the market fundamentals remained healthy, supported by Global Capability Centre expansion and sustained corporate confidence, positioning the sector for continued growth through 2025.

The net office absorption touched at 26.8 million square feet in H1 2025, representing a robust 40 pc year-on-year increase from 19.08 Mn sq ft in H1 2024 with top markets were Bengaluru with 64 pc growth, Pune rocketed 188 pc in office absorption & 533 pc in new supply.

Perfume heritage and spiritual circuits put UP tourism in spotlight at IATO convention

Lucknow/Puri, (UNI)

The 40th Annual Convention of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), which began yesterday in Puri, Odisha, has placed Uttar Pradesh at the centre of national tourism discussions. With the theme "Rejuvenate Inbound @2030", the three-day convention (22–25 August) is hosting nearly 1,000 delegates from across the country, including tour operators, travel media, hoteliers, and policy leaders.

On Day 1, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism pavilion emerged as a key highlight, unveiling the state's diverse offerings – from the Perfume Capital of India, Kannauj to the Spiritual Triangle of Kashi–Ayodhya–Prayagraj, and mega cultural experiences like Deepotsav and Rangotsav. Delegates showed keen interest in the perfume tourism segment, where the centuries-old attar-making tradition of Kannauj was highlighted as a unique experiential product for both domestic and international visitors.

The UP Tourism stall was inaugurated by Pravati Parida, Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, in the presence of Suman Billa, Director General, Tourism & Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Neelu Sharma, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, and senior officials.

Tourism & Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said, "The IATO Convention provides us with a golden opportunity to present Uttar Pradesh as India's most versatile tourism destination. From perfume tourism in Kannauj to world-class cultural festivals like Deepotsav, we are creating experiences that combine heritage with innovation. Our vision is to ensure that by 2030, every visitor to Uttar Pradesh carries back not just memories but a sense of connection with our culture and spirituality." Principal Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Mukesh Kumar Meshram added, "Through IATO, we are engaging directly with the country's leading tour operators and industry leaders to build new partnerships. This is not just about promoting monuments and heritage, but about expanding tourism infrastructure, inviting private investment, and diversifying experiences – from river tourism and wellness retreats to agro and perfume tourism. Uttar Pradesh is positioning itself as a holistic tourism hub that can meet the aspirations of future travellers."

The first day of the convention also saw cultural showcases and networking sessions, with UP Tourism officials engaging stakeholders on potential opportunities around UP's Ramayana circuit, Varanasi's riverfront, and eco-tourism in Dudhwa and Bundelkhand.

HDFC Bank Parivartan impacts over 63 lakh lives in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, through its CSR arm Parivartan, has positively impacted over 63.72 lakh lives in Madhya Pradesh to date. The Bank has been active in the state since 2015, covering 38 of Madhya Pradesh's 55 districts. In Madhya Pradesh, Rural Development, Promotion of Education, and Skill Training & Livelihood Enhancement have driven the most significant impact.

Over 69,000 farmers have benefitted, along with 26,000 students and 17,000 trained individuals. CSR Footprint in Madhya Pradesh, HDFC Bank's Parivartan programme has built a strong and sustained presence across Madhya Pradesh, covering 38 of the state's 55 districts through a mix of ongoing, and closed projects. The Bank has successfully implemented projects in all of the state's Aspirational Districts, with completed initiatives in Barwani, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Guna, Khandwa, Rajgarh, and Vidisha, and continuing efforts in Barwani, Guna, Khandwa, and Singrauli.

Overall, 33 districts have seen projects successfully completed, while 17 districts currently have active interventions underway. Upcoming projects are planned in Tikamgarh and Ujjain.

The Bank's flagship Holistic Rural Development Programme, which focuses on integrated interventions across all 6 focus areas, has impacted 165 villages across Alirajpur, Ashoknagar, Bhopal, Chhindwara, Dewas, Indore, Khargone, and Sehore. Additionally, Focused Development Programmes, where the Bank carries out specific interventions under any one or two of the key focus areas in atargeted geographical area, have been implemented in the districts of Agar Malwa, Balaghat, Bhopal, Chhatarpur, Guna, Gwalior, Harda, Indore, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandla, Mandsaur, Panna, Satna, Singrauli, and Umaria.

"At HDFC Bank, we believe CSR is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Through Parivartan, we design and implement need-based interventions that respond to the unique challenges of each region.

IIM Nagpur express Deep Condolences on the Untimely Demise of Vice Chancellor of KavikulaguruKalidas Sanskrit University

Nagpur: The Indian Institute of Management Nagpur expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved family on the untimely demise of Prof. Hareram Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of KavikulaguruKalidas Sanskrit University, and his wife.

An eminent scholar and academic leader, Prof. Tripathi dedicated his life to the promotion of Sanskrit and higher learning.

His vision, scholarship, and commitment to education have left an indelible mark on the academic community.

His lifelong efforts to preserve and promote India's rich cultural and linguistic heritage will be remembered for generations.

We extend our deepest condolences to his bereaved family, colleagues, students, and the entire university fraternity in this hour of sorrow.

May the Almighty grant peace to the departed souls and give strength to all to bear this irreparable loss.

IIM Nagpur joins the academic fraternity in mourning this profound loss and honoring Prof. Tripathi's exemplary life dedicated to knowledge and education.

MoSPI organizes a One-day capacity building program on sustainable development

New Delhi, (UNI)

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) today organized a capacity building workshop on the theme of ' Strengthening Sub-National SDG monitoring' at Agartala, Tripura.

This event was under collaboration by the Government of Tripura and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In his inaugural address, Bikash Debbarma, Planning (Statistics) Minister of the Tripura Government, highlighted that a whole-of-government approach has been adopted for the SDGs, which are the tools to improve the socio-economic condition.

SC Malik, Additional Director General, MoSPI, stressed the importance of localized action and continuous monitoring for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He pointed towards the steps taken by the MoSPI in developing the National Indicator Framework (NIF).

The National Indicator Framework (NIF) is a set of statistical indicators developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to monitor the country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Multiple dignitaries from States/UTs exchanged their insights on sustainable development goals.

The workshop concluded with a call to action for participating States and union Territories to boost their sub-national SDG monitoring frameworks by ensuring alignment with the National Indicator Framework (NIF).

Meta partners with Midjourney to use 'aesthetic technology' in Facebook

New Delhi, (UNI)

Meta signed a deal with generative AI lab Midjourney to license the startup's 'aesthetic technology' for the future models of social media company Facebook.

"The technical collaboration will link the research initiatives of both teams." says Alexandr Wang, Chief AI Officer of Meta.

Wang said, " We are incredibly impressed by Midjourney. They have accomplished true feats of technical and aesthetic excellence, and we are thrilled to be working more closely on them."

Stressing on the upcoming collaboration, Wang stated, " The two companies will share more about what they're working on together soon."

The partnership will drive the image quality of Meta's social media apps like Facebook, and allow the company to compete well with the advanced technologies, including OpenAI and Google.

Midjourney AI was founded in 2022 and steadily established itself as a leader in the domain of AI image creation.

The company leverages the 'Diffusion Model' to generate images from the text prompts. It works on the basics of prompts given by the user.