

IN BRIEF



CIL's executive hiring set to jump this fiscal

KOLKATA
Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is set to hire 7,000 people during the current fiscal, up by about 17% from an average hiring of 6,000 a year as the miner plans to recruit more executives, a top company official said. The world's largest coal miner expects roles of executives becoming important with more modern, automated and environment-friendly mining activities, according to the official. PTI

Tata Communications partners Cisco

MUMBAI
Tata Communications has expanded its partnership with Cisco to offer enterprises a secure, cloud-based Cisco Webex Contact Center solution. "This joint offering is an end-to-end managed solution with global reach enabled by Tata Communications' global digital infrastructure and managed services expertise, which companies of all sizes can now leverage for competitive advantage," said a company statement.

Zifo opens centres in Chennai, Shanghai

CHENNAI
Global scientific informatics services firm Zifo RnD Solutions has expanded its operations by opening centres in Chennai and Shanghai as part of its growth plans, said a top official. "Currently, we employ 500 people in Chennai and 100 overseas," said Raj Prakash, co-founder and CEO, Zifo RnD Solutions. "This number will be doubled to 1,200 by 2023," added Mr. Prakash.

Tata Motors unveils EV tech to power cars

Company to launch first product based on 'Ziptron' in the fourth quarter of current fiscal

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Tata Motors has unveiled an electric vehicle (EV) technology named 'Ziptron' that will power its electric cars.

Ziptron, the EV power train technology, can be deployed on any platform of Tata Motors to produce sustainable and durable e-mobility solutions, which will be specifically designed for Indian conditions.

Successful tests

The first product using this technology will be launched in the fourth quarter of this financial year. Extensive tests conducted over one million km has been successful, top executives said.

The company is yet to disclose whether the first product, based on the new tech-



Space for both: ICE vehicles and EVs will co-exist for the next decade, says Guenter Butschek (right). *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nology, would be a sport utility vehicle or a passenger car. The company said that the Ziptron EV power train technology, developed by a team of 350 Tata Motors engineers over four years, will be a "building block towards Tata Motors' consistent striving for commonality, to drive

economies of scale and to make new technologies affordable for Indian consumers."

Addresses all concerns

The technology addresses 'all concerns' for an EV and comes with an efficient high-voltage system (over 300

volts), high performance, long range of 250 km per charge, fast-charging capability, battery with an eight-year warranty and adherence to IP67 standard which is the best dust and water-proof battery system in the industry, according to the company.

Executives said that Ziptron technology comprised a highly efficient permanent magnet AC motor providing 'superior performance on demand'. It also utilises smart, regenerative braking to charge the battery while on the drive.

Guenter Butschek, CEO and MD, Tata Motors, said, "Our state-of-art technology brand Ziptron has been designed in-house while utilising our global engineering network. At the heart of our

future EV line-up, this technology will deliver a thrilling driving experience to our customers aspiring to go green." He added, "Being an Indian company, we want to lead the new wave of electrification in the country. Both ICE vehicles and EVs will co-exist for the next decade or beyond. We are working to bring the EV into the mainstream."

Currently, EVs are hardly any match to vehicles with internal combustion engines. Out of the 3.3 million passenger vehicles sold in 2018, the contribution of EVs was only 2,027 units.

With the Ziptron technology, Tata Motors said it was hoping to usher in a new wave of e-mobility in India and accelerate faster adoption of EVs.

Google services in India get more local flavour

'Search in 3 more Indian languages'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Aimed at getting more people in India to use its services, technology giant Google on Thursday announced addition of more local languages such as Tamil, Telugu and Bengali for products including Search, Lens, Discover and Bolo. It added that it will extend Search to three more Indian languages by the this year end.

Google also said that it will roll out the 'interpreter mode' in the Assistant on Android phones in the coming months. This will help users translate from one language to another in real-time, enabling two people who do not know each other's language to converse.

The U.S.-headquartered firm is adding more Indian languages to other Google products, such as Discover - Google's news feed, including Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Urdu and Punjabi will follow soon.

Similarly, Google Lens, which allows people to search for information, ask questions and translate text by pointing their phone's camera at things they're interested in, will now be able to translate Tamil, Telugu and Marathi.

Another application Bolo, a speech-based app that helps children learn how to read, will get Bangla, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu as additional languages.

Google to set up AI research lab

It will focus on solving problems in healthcare, agriculture

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

U.S.-headquartered Google on Thursday announced the setting up of a research lab in Bengaluru that will work on advancing artificial intelligence-related research with an aim to solve problems in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture and education.

"... we announced Google Research India - a new AI research team in Bangalore that will focus on advancing computer science and applying AI research to solve big problems in healthcare, agriculture, education and more," Sundar Pichai, CEO, Google, tweeted.

Caesar Sengupta, vice-president, Next Billion Users Initiative and Payments at Google, added that this team



Caesar Sengupta

would focus on advancing fundamental computer science and AI research by building a strong team and partnering with the research community across the country.

The company said it will also be applying this research to tackle problems in fields such as healthcare, agriculture, and education.

The new lab will be a part of and support Google's global network of researchers.

"We're also exploring the potential for partnering with India's scientific research community and academic institutions to help train top talent and support collaborative programmes, tools and resources," Jay Yagnik, vice-president and Google Fellow, Google AI, said.

Google Pay

The technology giant announced a host of additions to its UPI-powered digital payments app Google Pay which, the company said, had grown more than three times in the last 12 months to 67 million monthly active users, driving transactions worth over \$110 billion on an annualised basis.

RBI revises norms for concurrent audit in banks

'Risk-sensitive areas must be covered'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised norms for concurrent audit in banks and said lenders should ensure that risk-sensitive areas identified by them are covered under the audit.

Concurrent audit aims at shortening the interval between a transaction and its independent examination.

"Care may be taken to ensure that all centralized processing centres (business origination and monitoring) are covered under concurrent audit," the RBI said.

With regard to appointment of auditors, it has been left to banks whether concurrent audit should be done by bank's own staff or external auditors.

"The head of internal audit in the bank should participate in selection of concurrent auditors where such function is outsourced and should be responsible for the quality review of the work of the concurrent auditors reporting to her/him," RBI said adding that banks should ensure if any partner of a chartered accountant firm is a director of the bank, no partner of the same firm should be appointed as concurrent auditor in the same bank.

The RBI said the tenure of external concurrent auditors with a bank should not be more than five years on continuous basis. The age limit for retired staff engaged as concurrent auditors has been capped at 70 years.

TNPL to invest ₹2,520 cr. in plant expansion

Company to boost paper capacity

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd. (TNPL) has embarked on a ₹2,520-crore, two-phased expansion programme at its Tiruchirapalli plant, said a top official.

"TNPL has embarked on a mill expansion plan in its second unit to produce 1.65 lakh tonnes of paper per annum. The company will also set up a hardwood pulp mill with chemical recovery boiler, captive power plant and a waste-water treatment plant," said N. Muruganandam, chairman, while addressing the shareholders.

"The first phase, involving the setting up of a hardwood pulp mill, captive power plant and waste wa-

ter treatment, will be completed by January 2021. The second phase for making paper will be ready by 2023. After expansion, the overall paper and packaging board production capacity will increase to 7.65 lakh tonnes per annum from the existing 6 lakh tonnes per annum," said S. Sivashanmugaraja, managing director, TNPL.

He said TNPL would have a capacity to produce 400 tonnes per day of hardwood pulp, which was scalable to 500 tonnes per day.

"The project cost will be met through a mix of debt and equity. We will borrow ₹880 crore from banks and the rest will be funded by internal accruals," said Mr. Sivashanmugaraja.

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