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The Global South's New Anchor:
India Steps Forward





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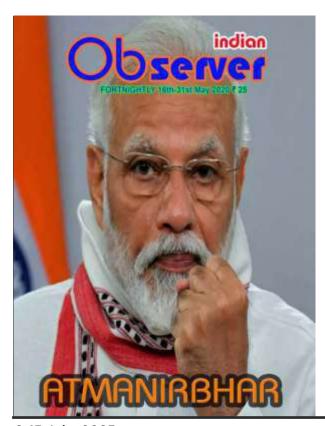








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#### **CHIEF EDITOR DESK**



Dear Readers,

On behalf of National Awareness Times (India's National Weekly), the editorial board and the team of our journal would like to wish all the readers a wonderful week ahead to all.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious five-nation tour from July 2-9 across Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia has

crystallised India's emergence as the natural and most trusted ally of the Global South.

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil inaugurated C-FLOOD, a Unified Inundation Forecasting System collaboratively developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti.

To promote environment sustainability and commemorate 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' campaign, NHAI organised a drive to plant around 17,000 trees along the Faridabad-Noida International Airport Corridor.

Nistar', the first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel, was delivered by Hindustan Shipyard Limited to the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.

Deepak Singh, Chief Editor

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## THE GLOBAL SOUTH'S NEW ANCHOR: INDIA STEPS FORWARD

By Editor - Gaurav Singh



rime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious five-nation tour from July 2-9 across Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia has crystallised India's emergence as the natural and most trusted ally of the Global South.

This historic journey, one of PM Modi's most extensive foreign engagements in a decade, reflects his vision of fostering South-South cooperation, securing critical resources, and advocating for a reformed global order that amplifies the voices of developing nations.

Through strategic agreements on rare earth minerals and defence, a powerful BRICS statement condemning terrorism, and a series of high-level engagements, PM Modi has not only deepened bilateral ties but also elevated India's stature as a beacon of hope and leadership for the Global South.

His growing influence as a global statesman, underscored by

prestigious state honours and his clarion call for equitable global governance, has positioned India as an unequivocal friend and guiding light for developing nations.

#### Ghana: A new chapter in Afro-Indianties

PM Modi's visit to Ghana, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in three decades, marked a historic milestone. His meetings with President John Dramani Mahama elevated bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Partnership, with a bold commitment to double trade within five years.

A landmark agreement on rare earth mineral mining positioned Ghana as a cornerstone of India's mineral security strategy, vital for its electric vehicle and clean energy ambitions. This deal aligns with PM Modi's push to diversify critical mineral supply chains, reducing dependence on China.

Beyond resources, PM Modi's address to the Ghanaian Parliament

resonated deeply, emphasising shared democratic values and inviting lawmakers to visit India's new Parliament building. Agreements on traditional medicine, standards cooperation, and maritime security further strengthened ties, while PM Modi's vibrant interaction with Ghana's 15,000-strong Indian diaspora, marked by a musical welcome, reinforced cultural bonds.

#### Trinidad and Tobago: Celebrating shared heritage

In Trinidad and Tobago, where 40–45% of the population traces its roots to India, PM Modi's visit - the first in 25 years - celebrated 180 years of diaspora ties. Engaging with President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, both of Indian descent, PM Modi deepened cultural and economic connections. The conferment of Trinidad and Tobago's highest civilian honour on PM Modi underscored his



role in strengthening bilateral ties and global leadership. As the Caribbean's largest oil and gas producer, Trinidad and Tobago emerged as a key energy partner, with discussions focusing on hydrocarbons, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, and digital infrastructure.

PM Modi's address to Parliament highlighted democracy as a shared way of life, reinforcing India's soft power through Ayurveda, yoga, and cultural diplomacy, while trade, valued at \$341.61 million, gained new momentum.

#### Argentina: Tapping the Lithium Triangle

PM Modi's visit to Argentina, the first in 57 years, was a game-changer for India's engagement with Latin America. Meeting President Javier Milei, PM Modi forged a strategic partnership centered on agriculture, energy, and critical minerals.

Argentina, part of the "Lithium Triangle" with over half the world's lithium reserves, became a pivotal partner through a deal between India's Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) and Coal India, securing four lithium exploration concessions in Catamarca province with state-run CAMYEN.

This agreement bolsters India's energy transition goals, ensuring a steady supply of lithium for batteries and clean technologies. Talks also explored defense manufacturing, space technology, telemedicine, and digital healthcare, leveraging India's expertise to support Argentina's economic reforms. This visit laid the foundation for a broader strategic alliance, positioning India as a reliable partner in the region.

#### Brazil: BRICS solidarity and strategic alignment

In Brazil, PM Modi's dual engagement - attending the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro and a bilateral state visit to Braslia - deepened India's partnership with a key Global South ally. Discussions with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva covered trade (\$12.2 billion), defense, renewable energy, space, and agriculture.

The BRICS Summit delivered a powerful statement condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 civilian lives. PM Modi's resolute call for a united global stance against terrorism, without political convenience, targeted nations like China that have obstructed UN

sanctions on terrorists.

Brazil's conferment of the "Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross" on PM Modi highlighted his global stature. Strategically, Brazil's interest in India's Akash missile system and secure communication technologies, alongside talks on lithium and rare earths, underscored India's role in diversifying global supply chains. MoUs in renewable energy and agricultural research further cemented ties.

#### PM Modi's stature as a global statesman

PM Modi's tour has elevated him as a towering figure in global diplomacy, with his vision for a reformed world order resonating across the Global South. His addresses to the parliaments of Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago underscored democracy as a universal value and India's commitment to empowering developing nations.

In Ghana, he called for reforms in global organisations to address modern challenges like climate change, terrorism, and cybersecurity, advocating for credible and effective governance. The global community is



increasingly endorsing India's principled stand against terrorism, as evidenced by the BRICS Summit's unequivocal condemnation of the Pahalgam attack and growing international support for India's push for a comprehensive global framework to combat terrorism without double standards. This alignment reflects PM Modi's success in rallying nations around a zero-tolerance approach to terror.

At the BRICS Summit, PM Modi's stance against the weaponization of critical minerals struck a chord. He argued that strategic resources like lithium and rare earths should not be monopolised or used for geopolitical leverage - a direct challenge to China's export restrictions.

His proposal for secure, equitable supply chains, backed by the Quad's mineral alliance and bilateral deals in Ghana, Argentina, and Namibia, positions India as



a counterweight to China's dominance. The conferment of the highest state honours by Trinidad and Tobago, and Brazil reflects PM Modi's ability to forge trust-based relationships with Global South leaders.

These accolades, coupled with his advocacy for the African Union's permanent G20 membership during India's presidency, underscore his commitment to amplifying marginalised voices. PM Modi's personal touch engaging with diasporas, celebrating shared histories, and promoting yoga and Ayurveda - has amplified India's soft power, making it a cultural and moral force in the Global South.

#### Strategic tie-ups and Global South leadership

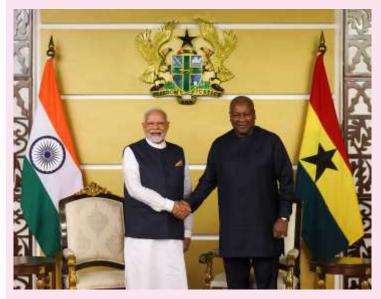
PM Modi's tour has woven a tapestry of strategic partnerships, from defence deals with Brazil (Akash missile system) and Ghana (maritime security) to digital cooperation through UPI in Namibia. The focus on rare earth minerals across Ghana, Argentina, and Namibia aligns with India's ambition to lead in green technologies, while BRICS' unified stance against terrorism strengthens global security cooperation.

PM Modi's engagements with multilateral platforms like BRICS, the African Union, ECOWAS, and CARICOM have positioned India as a bridge between emerging and developed economies, advocating for responsible AI, climate finance, and inclusive governance.

India's Ascendancy as the Global South's Guiding Light under PM Modi's visionary leadership, India has emerged as the unequivocal friend, ally, and guiding light of the Global South. His five-nation tour has not only secured critical resources and defense partnerships but also reinforced India's moral and strategic leadership.

By championing equitable global governance, countering the weaponization of resources, and fostering trust through cultural and historical bonds, PM Modi has positioned India as a reliable partner in a multipolar world. As the Global South navigates complex challenges, India's rise under PM Modi's stewardship offers a model of inclusive growth, resilience, and solidarity, lighting the way for a more equitable future.

## EVENTS



PM met the President of the Republic of Ghana, Mr. John Dramani Mahama ahead of their bilateral meeting at Jubilee House in Accra, Ghana on July 02, 2025

The Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla addressing the gathering at the inauguration of the National Level Conference of Chairpersons of Urban Local Bodies of States and Union Territories at IMT Manesar, Gurugram, in Haryana on 03 July, 2025.





The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar and Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar being welcomed by Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala, Shri P Rajeeve, Minister, Government of Kerala, Shri Haris Beeran, Member of Rajya Sabha and other dignitaries on their arrival in Kochi, Kerala on July 06, 2025.



The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda distributed appointment letters to Delhi Nursing Officers and Paramedical staff and flagged off Ayushman Bharat Registration Vans in the presence of Smt. Rekha Gupta, the Chief Minister of Delhi and other dignitaries, in New Delhi on July 06, 2025.

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan planting saplings at the premises of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during the 96th Annual General Meeting of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)'s at Bharat Ratna Dr. C. Subramaniam Auditorium, PUSA Campus, in New Delhi on July 07, 2025.





Commander UAE Naval Forces Major General Staff Humaid Mohd Abdullah Al Rumaithi calling on the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, in New Delhi on July 08, 2025.

#### UNION MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI SHRI C R PATIL INAUGURATES C-FLOOD



he Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil inaugurated C-FLOOD, a Unified Inundation Forecasting System collaboratively developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti. The inauguration ceremony was held at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi in the presence of senior officers from Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).

This initiative, executed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) jointly steered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), marks a transformative step towards strengthening India's flood management and disaster response framework.

C-FLOOD is a web-based platform that provides two-days advance inundation forecasts up to village level in the form of flood inundation maps and water level predictions. The platform will act as a unified system integrating flood modelling outputs from national and regional agencies, offering a comprehensive decision-support tool for disaster management authorities. At present, the system covers the Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi river basins, with more river basins to be incorporated in the future.

The C-FLOOD platform uses advanced 2-D hydrodynamic modelling to simulate flood scenarios. The simulations for

Mahanadi Basin are run on High Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure under NSM at C-DAC Pune, with integration of outputs for Godavari and Tapi Basins, which have been developed by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the National Hydrology Project (NHP).

On this occasion, the Union Minister directed CWC and concerned agencies to widely popularize the C-FLOOD portal to enhance public awareness and preparedness, and to prepare a comprehensive plan for inundation studies covering all river basins. Inundation forecasts must be promptly integrated into the National Disaster Management **Emergency Response Portal** (NDEM). Agencies were instructed to improve forecast accuracy through satellite validation and ground-truthing, etc. Additionally, CWC was directed to coordinate closely with C-DAC, NRSC, and other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and continuous enhancement of the forecasting system.

At last, the Union Minister appreciated the collaborative efforts of CWC, C-DAC, and NRSC in operationalising this state-of-the-art flood forecasting dissemination system, reiterating the Government's commitment towards proactive disaster preparedness and management.

### NHAI ORGANISES PLANTATION DRIVE ALONG FARIDABAD-NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CORRIDOR



o promote environment sustainability and commemorate 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' campaign, NHAI organised a drive to plant around 17,000 trees along the Faridabad-Noida International Airport Corridor. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways along with Shri Ajay Tamta, Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways; Shri Harsh Malhotra, Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Corporate Affairs; Dr. Mahesh Sharma. Member of Parliament - Gautam Buddha Nagar; Shri Dhirendra Singh, MLA - Jewar; NHAI Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav along with senior officials from MoRTH, NHAI, local administration planted trees at the Yamuna Expressway Interchange on Faridabad - Noida International Airport Road in Gautam Budh Nagar District, Uttar Pradesh. School students also planted trees on the occasion to spread the message of

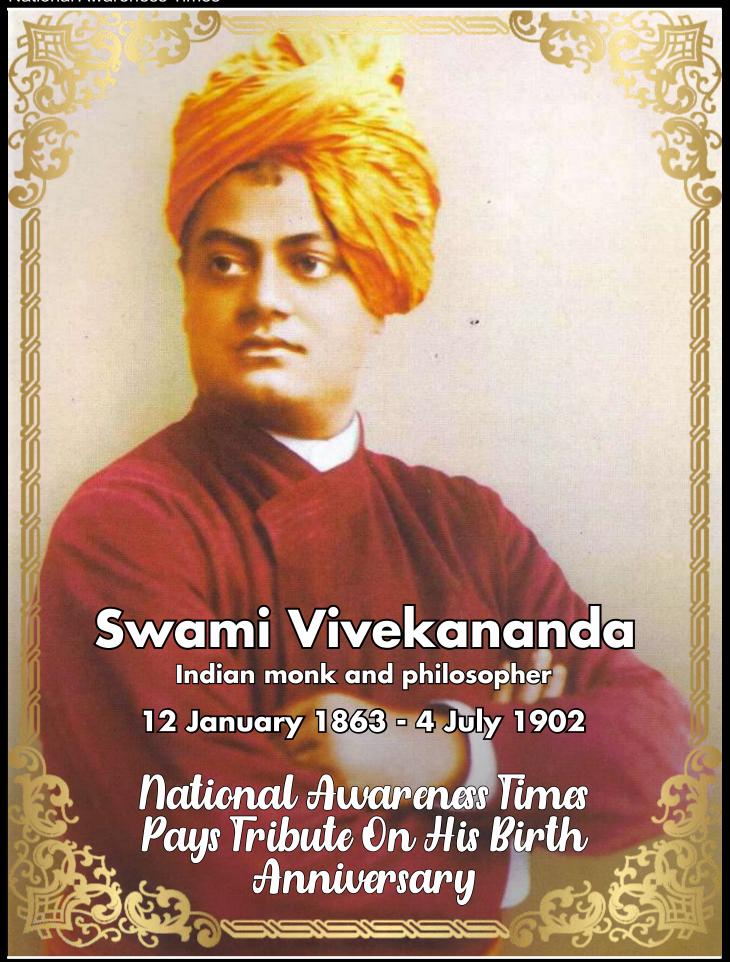
environment sustainability.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways said "A significant portion of pollution stems from fossil fuels consumed by vehicles on the roads and National Highways. It is our foremost responsibility to reduce this. Promoting the use of alternative fuels like ethanol and undertaking large-scale plantation drives, are the most effective solutions, and we are actively pursuing both. For environment sustainability, we are also effectively utilising waste in road construction and have used around 80 lakh ton of waste in road construction. We are also prioritising water conservation by adopting measures like rainwater harvesting on our highways. 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' is a very noble initiative for environment sustainability, and I congratulate NHAI for planting around 5 crore trees along the National Highways."

The Faridabad-Noida International Airport Corridor will enhance connectivity between Delhi-NCR and Noida International Airport at Jewar. Plantation of around 17,000 trees along the corridor will provide many ecological benefits to the region like improved air quality, reduced soil erosion, and enhanced biodiversity. This dual focus on both environment sustainability and infrastructure development will position Faridabad-Noida International Airport Corridor as a pioneering example of green infrastructure, establishing a new benchmark for green development across the country.

NHAI has been focusing on creating Green Corridors by undertaking bamboo plantation, dense plantation and vertical landscaping. The vision is to saturate plantations along the National Highways collectively by involving various stakeholders to create a green and sustainable National Highway network. NHAI planted around 67 lakh trees as against the target of 60 lakh plantations during 2024-25. Under the 'Ek ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' initiative, NHAI has planted over 12 Lakh trees during the current year along the National Highways across the country.

Keeping its commitment to create a sustainable National Highway network. Since implementation of the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance), Policy 2015 NHAI has planted around 4.78 crore trees and transplanted around 70,000 trees along the National Highways.



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## DELIVERY OF FIRST INDIGENOUS DIVING SUPPORT VESSEL - 'NISTAR



istar', the first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel, was delivered by Hindustan Shipyard Limited to the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.

The warship has been designed and built as per classification rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). The ship is highly specialised and can undertake Deep Sea Diving and Rescue Operations – a capability with select Navies across the globe.

The ship's name, 'Nistar', originates from Sanskrit and means liberation, rescue or salvation. The ship, measuring 118 m with a tonnage of nearly 10,000 tons, is installed with state-of-the-art Diving Equipment and has the capability to undertake Deep Sea Saturation Diving up to 300 m depth. The ship also has a Side Diving Stage for undertaking Diving Operations up to 75 m depth.

The ship will also serve as the 'Mother Ship' for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV), to rescue and evacuate personnel, in case of an emergency in a submarine underwater. The ship is equipped with a combination of Remotely Operated Vehicles to undertake Diver Monitoring and Salvage Operations up to a depth of 1000 m.

The delivery of Nistar, with nearly 75% indigenous content, is yet another milestone in the Indian Navy's quest for indigenous construction and is in line with the Gol's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the Make in India campaign.



## Dhurandhar sparks debate over 20-year age gap between Ranveer Singh and Sara Arjun



Ranveer Singh revealed the first look of his next film, *Dhurandhar*, on his birthday, July 6. Although the visuals and Singh's strong screen presence received widespread praise, the 20-year age difference between him and the film's female lead, Sara Arjun, has sparked widespread discussion. Numerous social media users have criticized the casting choice.

Dhurandhar's striking visuals and Ranveer Singh's intense look captured everyone's attention and sparked curiosity. With the film set for a grand theatrical release on December 5, the first look promo is also gaining widespread attention and has ignited a debate over the 20-year age gap between Ranveer Singh and Sara Arjun,

with many pointing out the unusual pairing.

Sara Arjun is a well-known child artist in South Indian cinema and has also appeared in Hindi films. She has acted in several Tamil movies as a child artist and recently portrayed the younger version of Aishwarya Rai's character in Mani Ratnam's *Ponniyin Selvan* films.

Although the specifics of their roles in *Dhurandhar* remain undisclosed, the first look promo has already stirred conversations, with many questioning the significant age gap between the lead actors.

An X user noted that Sara might have been 18 years old during the filming of *Dhurandhar*. Another user commented, "Can you imagine a 40-year-old actor like #RanveerSingh doing romance with a 20-year-old girl like #SaraArjun in #Dhurandhar? This only happens in #Bollywood."

Dhurandhar is an original story, reportedly inspired by Ajit Doval (the Indian super spy and National Security Advisor), and follows a plot where he goes undercover in enemy territory to avert a major crisis. Directed by Aditya Dhar, the film stars Ranveer Singh, Sara Arjun, Sanjay Dutt, Madhavan, Akshay Khanna, and Arjun Rampal in key roles.

Presented by Jio Studios, the film is produced by Jyoti Deshpande and Lokesh Dhar. It is set for a box office clash this December with Prabhas and director Maruthi's *The Raja Saab*.

## Sitaare Zameen Par Reaches Rs. 130 crores mark on Blockbuster



The Aamir Khan starrer has now collected Rs. 129.78 crores and will comfortably cross Rs. 135 crores by the time the second week is through. Rs. 150 crores milestone would be achieved by the close of third weekend and then Rs. 175 crores milestone would be there to be celebrated in quick time. As for Rs. 200 Crore Club, it would be a very tough road ahead since there is a flurry of releases in weeks to come which means screens and shows will start getting reduced in a major way as well

The film is a very good success and for a core content based comedy drama, this one has brought respite to theatre business. Of course, it's the presence of Aamir Khan that has made it happen and whether it's him or any other superstar

featuring in such an affair, the costs are always going to be very high. The real fun would be if a mid-budget film with a regular star is put together in this zone and if that too is accepted while heartedly by the audiences, then one can truly say that the genre has been revived for theatrical viewing.





9-15 July, 2025

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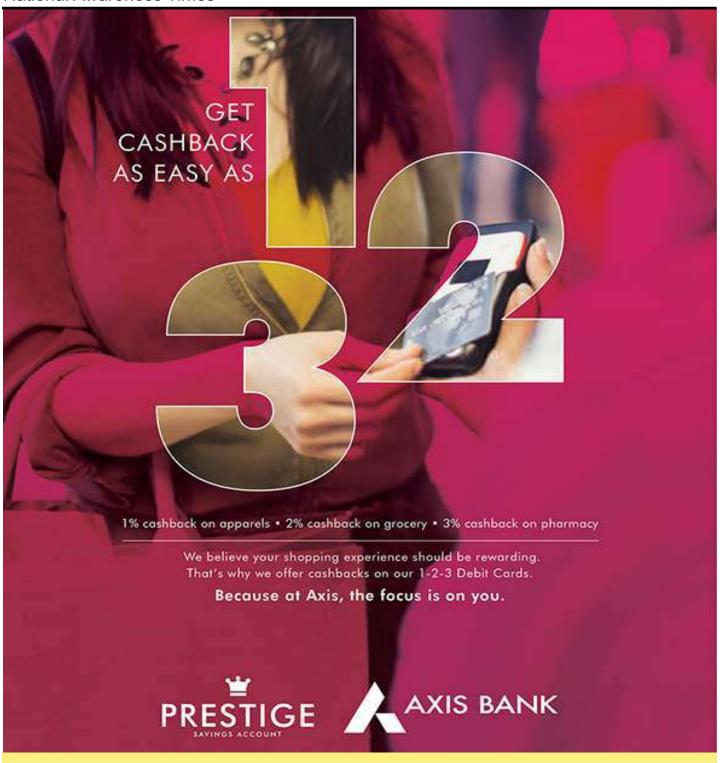




The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence».

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