

INDEPENDENCE DAY
OF
India

2th
15th August
2023





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AVAILABLE SERVICES

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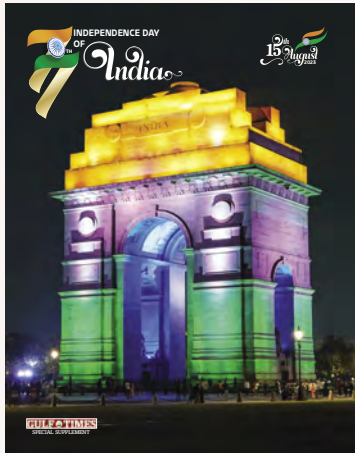
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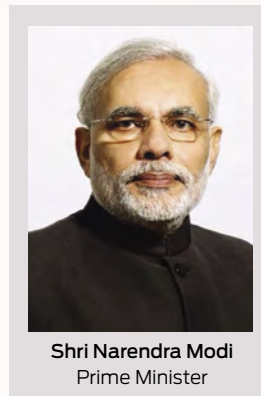
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Smt. Droupadi Murmu
President



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 77th Independence Day of India, I extend hearty congratulations and warm greetings to all Indians living in Qatar. I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to HH the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, all Members of the Royal Family, and the Government of the State of Qatar for their continued patronage and support to the Indian community in Qatar.

On our Independence Day, we remember and pay homage to our freedom fighters who laid down their precious lives so that we can hold our heads high and live with pride and dignity. We also fondly recall and be grateful to our fellow Indians who made invaluable contributions in protecting the country and ensuring its progress over the past seven and half decades. India today stands proud as the largest democracy in the world.

India is today the fifth largest economy in the world and is well on its way to becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Despite global headwinds, our real GDP growth in 2022-23 stood at 7.2% and it is projected to be 6.5% in 2023-24. India will thus remain the fastest growing large economy in the world. Government of India has ensured empowerment of all people of India through schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer, Jandhan Yojana (financial inclusion), Ayushman Bharat (health for all) and providing free foodgrains to 800 million people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Trade and investment has continued to show robust growth with Government's emphasis on Ease of Doing Business. India's exports reached a record USD 770 billion in FY 2022-23 which was a rise of USD 94 billion than the previous year. India's FDI inflows have also increased multifold and stood at about USD 71 billion in FY 2022-23. Today, India has one of the largest startup ecosystem in the world. India's internet economy is predicted to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030. We have also continued to make excellent progress in the field of manufacturing. India has become the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally. India retains its status as the pharmacy of the world.

The country also continues to make tremendous strides in science and technology. It was a moment of pride for all Indians across the globe, when India successfully launched Chandrayaan - 3 mission last month, with an aim to land a rover on the moon. We have the world's largest rural broadband connectivity with about 600,000 km optical fibre cable laid. We have the second largest 5G network in the world, on the back of the fastest 5G rollout with 300,000 sites. India leads the world in digital payments through the indigenously developed instant payment system UPI. In May 2023, more than 9.4 billion transactions took place on UPI of total value of about USD 180 billion.

Government of India has taken some pathbreaking initiatives to address issues facing the humanity. Prime Minister Modi's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) encourages people to adopt more sustainable and healthier lifestyle. India has declared Net Zero Pledge, to achieve net zero emissions goal by 2070. The National Green Hydrogen Mission has been launched to enable India to be energy independent by 2047.

The year 2023 has also been seminal for India as we made our mark on the global stage through our Presidency of the G-20 as well as SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization). Both these presidencies were an occasion for India to showcase its ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the whole world is one family). This is also reflected in India's G20 Presidency's theme, "One Earth, One Family, One Future". In its presidency of G-20 India has shaped global agenda on issues of common concern such as inclusive and resilient growth, climate change and green development, SDGs, technological transformation and digital public infrastructure, reformed multilateralism, and women-led development. India has also given priority to amplifying the voice and concerns of the Global South and developing countries through its leadership.

Qatar has been one of the foremost partners for India in our quest for development and growth. Our two countries enjoy historical relationship based on the strong foundations of people-to-people contacts. The high-level contacts between India and Qatar have continued apace. In 2022, there were two Vice Presidential visits from India to Qatar, including for FIFA World Cup inauguration. The Indian community rejoiced in the success of FIFA. In February 2023, India hosted the visit of Qatar's Minister of Transport HE Jassim Seif Ahmed al-Sulaiti. In March 2023, our MOS for External Affairs Mr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh visited Qatar to participate in UN LDC5 Conference.

Energy has been one of the main pillars of bilateral cooperation and is expected to remain so. The Joint Task Force on Energy has been actively working to explore further expansion of energy cooperation. Bilateral trade and investment partnership continues to grow. For FY 2022-23, our bilateral trade stood at \$18.7 billion, recording 24% increase from last year. India is the third largest export destination for Qatar and third largest with respect to its imports. QIA's investments in India have also continued to expand which is highly welcome. India has been participating in Qatar's trade events and looks forward to the success of the upcoming Doha Horticulture Expo.

The year 2023 also marks a historic milestone as India and Qatar are celebrating 50 years of establishing full diplomatic relations. I am confident that the bonds of friendship between peoples of both countries would further strengthen through interactions on this special occasion. We look forward to organizing series of events to celebrate this occasion in collaboration with Qatari authorities.

The Indian community in Qatar has always been a part and parcel of Qatar's development story. I have been proud to hear good words of appreciation for the community from the Qatari dignitaries during my previous visits to Qatar. As I take charge as Ambassador of India to Qatar, welfare of Indians, especially those in dire need, would be a high priority for me. Our Embassy will continue to strive to deliver the best services for the community in a timely and transparent manner.

I am happy that over the past year the Indian community in Qatar has celebrated *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* by organizing several socio-cultural and business events. We also need to recommit ourselves to the goal of making India a developed nation in the *Amrit Kaal* as we move from 75 years of independence to the centenary in 2047. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said it is a duty for all Indians towards building a New India, which the future generations will look up to.

I once again extend my warm greetings to my fellow Indians in Qatar on Independence Day of India. Let us all continue to consolidate the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Qatar.

Jai Hind!



Shri Vipul
Ambassador of India to Qatar



KEY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Dr. Deepak Mittal called on His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on 22 March 2023, to bid farewell on the occasion of the end of his tenure. HH expressed his fondness for India and appreciated the work of the Indian community in Qatar. He wished ambassador well for the future. Ambassador expressed his gratitude to HH and State officials for their cooperation.



PM Narendra Modi met HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Secretary General of Muslim World League and Chairman of the Organisation of Muslim Scholars, on 12 July 2023. They had insightful discussions on various aspects of furthering inter-faith harmony, peace and working towards human progress.



India-Arab Partnership Conference

The 6th India-Arab Partnership Conference on: "New Horizons in Investment, Trade & Services" was organized on 11-12 July 2023 in New Delhi. Ministers, senior officials and businesspersons from Arab States and India participated in it.

The Conference is the flagship initiative of both sides to provide an institutional platform for a robust engagement between the business communities. The previous five editions of the conference have guided in laying the foundations of a roadmap and synergizing the economic cooperation between India and the League of Arab States (LAS) countries.


Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs (MOS), inaugurated the Conference and delivered keynote address.





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Warm felicitation and best wishes to the Indian nationals
and the Government of India on the occasion of



77th INDEPENDENCE DAY of INDIA




International Day of Yoga

International Day of Yoga celebrated in Qatar with great enthusiasm on 17 June 2023. A guided yoga session was organised at Al Arabi Stadium in which about 250 participated. C'da Ms Angeline Premalatha highlighted mental and physical benefits of Yoga. There were also demonstrations of traditional art forms like Kalari Payattu and Silambam.





On the joyous occasion of Indian Independence Day, we extend our gratitude to the visionary leaders who played a pivotal role in fostering a sense of friendship, unity, and prosperity among us.

LONG LIVE INDO-QATAR FRIENDSHIP





Charge d'affaires Ms. Angeline Premalatha took part in a gathering convened by the General Manager of Katara, alongside representatives from various Asian countries in Qatar on May 30, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen cultural collaboration. During the event, she emphasized the profound cultural connections shared between India and Qatar, engaging in conversations about strategies to elevate these ties to a higher level.



The 19th Edition of PROJECT QATAR 2023, which took place on May 29, 2023, at the DECC, witnessed the active participation of the Indian Business and Professionals Council (IBPC QATAR) in collaboration with the Embassy of India. This event not only celebrated the 50-year bilateral relationship between India and Qatar but also showcased India's prowess in the construction sector. Moreover, it provided vital support to the Associated Organizations of IBPC in Qatar who were exhibiting at the event.

Glimpses from Bharat Utsav - an exposition of the Indian cultural tapestry presented by the Indian Cultural Centre in Doha, Qatar - illuminated the Qatar National Convention Centre on May 19, 2023. Over 600 artists converged to unveil India's opulent heritage and vibrant diversity through an array of folk dances representing regions across the country. The event attracted a substantial audience, including esteemed Qatari dignitaries, diplomats, and members of the Indian Community.



Happy
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Day



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The IBPC hosted the ITeQS (IBPC QATAR Tech Summit) - an event centered around Engineering Innovation for a Resilient World. Charge D'Affaires Ms. Angeline Premalatha highlighted the immense contribution of Indian Engineers in building Qatar and innovations happening in India. Former Minister of Energy & Industry Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al Sada (Chairman Trustees Board, University of Doha) was the chief guest. A panel discussion was held in which eminent speakers stressed the importance of business innovation and technology adaptation in engineering in Qatar.



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Ms. Angeline Premalatha, Charge D'Affaires, inaugurated the Indian embassy's stall at the 32nd Doha International Book Fair held at DECC on 12 May, 2023. The booth showcased an extensive array of books, encompassing topics such as art, architecture, archaeology, Indian history, gastronomy, and captivating travel destinations.




The first round of India-GCC Senior Officers Meet (SOM) was held in Riyadh on 21 March 2023. Indian delegation was led by Dr Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV&OIA) while GCC delegation was led by Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Hamad Al-Owaishaq, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs & Negotiations, GCC. Both parties expressed contentment regarding the advancements made in trade and investment between India and the GCC countries. They mutually agreed for an early finalisation of India-GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA). GCC as a trade bloc is the largest trade partner to India with a total trade of USD 154 billion in FY 2021-22. They agreed that people-to-people ties need to be further enhanced. The discussion also focused upon regional issues of importance.






We extend our warmest greetings
on the occasion of the
77th Independence Day of India



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INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

*"Celebration of Unity!
Celebration of Freedom!
Celebration of Pride!"*

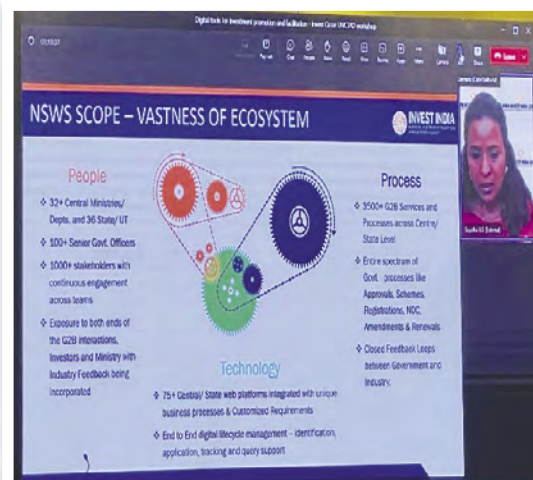
The Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) celebrated Labor Day Rang Tarang on 26th May 2023.



Indian Pavilion at the 10th Qatar International Agriculture Exhibition at the Doha Exhibition & Convention Centre was inaugurated on 15 March 2023, by the Minister of Transport HE Jassim bin Saif bin Ahmed Al Sulaiti and HE Akbar Al Baker, CEO- Qatar Airways Group and Chairman of Qatar Tourism. The pavilion featured a total of seven Indian companies, each contributing to its diverse offerings. Additionally, a dedicated stall was established to endorse the International Year of Millets.



Team 'Invest India' presented the best practices and measures undertaken by 'New India' in its endeavour for digital transformation during the workshop on 'Investment Promotion and Facilitation' on 9 March 2023, organised by Invest Qatar and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.



HE Dr. Deepak Mittal met with Maj. Gen. Abdullah Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Assistant Director-General of Public Security on 9 March 2023. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



Minister of State for External Affairs and Education of the Government of India, HE Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh spoke on Least Developed Countries (LDC5) Ministerial Meeting on SOUTH-SOUTH Cooperation titled 'Renewed partnerships for actionable solutions in support of implementation of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA)' on 7 March 2023. He highlighted India's readiness to share its developmental experience and expertise with brothers of Global South.





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15th August

Congratulations

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Minister of State for External Affairs and Education of the Government of India HE Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh addressed India's National Statement at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) on 6 March 2023, reaffirming India's strong political commitment to strengthening its close ties with the LDCs.




HE Dr. Deepak Mittal met with Qatar Museums Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani on 28 February 2023 and thanked her for continuous support to further deepen strong bonds of friendship and cultural ties between India and Qatar.



A total of 18 Indian jewellers participated under the Indian Pavilion in the Doha Jewellery & Watches Exhibition (DJWE) from 20 – 25 February 2023. Counsellor visited DJWE and interacted with the Indian exhibitors and Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) officials. Gems and jewellery worth USD 140 million were exported from India to Qatar from Apr 2022 - Jan 2023.





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Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission of India HE Justice Arun Mishra addressed the International Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights in Doha on 21 February 2023. He met Qatar NHRC Chairperson HE. Ms Maryam Al Attiyah and other dignitaries.



HE Dr. Deepak Mittal met HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie on 21 February 2023. The discussion encompassed the upcoming Expo2023Doha and strategies for enhancing the bilateral relationship.



Deputy Commander of the Qatar Emiri Air Force, Major General Ghanim Al Shahwani, headed the Qatari delegation attending the 'Aero India Show' and met with the Chief of Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, in Bengaluru on 15 February 2023. The discussions revolved around avenues to strengthen bilateral collaboration within the defense sector.



Salutations

To the Government and
the People of India on
the joyous occasion of
77th Independence Day

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Celebration of National Sports Day in Qatar by the Indian Sports Centre in collaboration with IBPC on 14 February 2023.



HE the Minister of Transport Jassim Saif Ahmed al-Sulaiti called on Union Minister of India HE Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on 7 February 2023. The meeting focused on deliberating sustainable infrastructure development and the importance of effective collaboration. Senior officials from both nations were also present to contribute to the discussions



HE Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) of India, held discussions with HE Jassim Saif Ahmed Al-Sulaiti, Transport Minister of Qatar, in Delhi on 7 February 2023. The meeting, attended by HE Shantanu Thakur, the Minister of State for MoPSW, and Sudhansh Pant IAS, the Secretary for MoPSW, was aimed at enhancing bilateral maritime cooperation.



HE Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, met with HE Jassim Saif Ahmed Al-Sulaiti, Minister of Transport, Qatar, on 6 February 2023. During this interaction, the two ministers conversed about matters concerning civil aviation on a bilateral scale. They also delved into shared concerns like the establishment of greenfield airports and the advancement of feeder airlines.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

ICC Wednesday Fiesta

Indian Cultural Centre conducted 'ICC Wednesday Fiesta', a weekly cultural event of the vibrant Indian community residing in Qatar. A classical dance performance by Aparna Vinod Menon, a celebrity dancer from India, was the major attraction for the evening. Additionally, a quality display of thematic performances by different groups captivated the large number of audience that was in attendance.



Blood Donation Camp

Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation organized a remarkable Blood Donation Camp at Asian Town, Industrial Area, on 28 July 2023. The response from the community was awe-inspiring, with more and more people coming forward to support this noble cause.

Dr. Vaibhav Tandale, the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy in Qatar, graced the occasion as the chief guest. He expressed his happiness at witnessing the community's dedication to bettering society, praising their commitment to giving back.

The generosity of eligible donors was evident, with a large number of individuals selflessly contributing to saving lives and addressing the constant need for blood in medical emergencies.




Environment Day


C'dA Ms Angeline Premalatha took part in the festivities of Environment Day. The event was also honoured by the presence of His Excellency Ahmed Bin Amer Al-Humaidi, the former Minister of Environment. An exhibition showcasing recycled waste products and a trashion show, aimed at promoting awareness about environmentally-friendly products and fashion, were meticulously arranged.




HAPPY INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



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we salute the visionary
leaders of India for
guiding us the true spirit
of unity, prosperity and
tolerance.*





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ROAMING WITH THE WILD

Exploring Nagarhole Tiger Reserve

In our unwavering pursuit of ecological harmony and safeguarding endangered species, the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve stands as a towering beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a promising future for India's abundant biodiversity

By **Amjad Vanimal**

Amidst the verdant landscapes of Karnataka, lies a wildlife haven that embraces the majestic tigers and gentle giants of the animal kingdom. Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, formerly known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park, beckons nature enthusiasts and wildlife aficionados alike. During my recent visit to India, I embarked on an unforgettable journey into the heart of this captivating reserve.

The name of the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve finds its origin in the local Kannada language, where 'Nagarahole' gracefully translates to 'Serpent River,' paying homage to the river that flows through the reserve. Playing a crucial role in preserving biodiversity, this reserve serves as a vital connecting habitat for tigers and elephants, bridging the gap between the Western Ghats via Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary and the Eastern Ghats through Bandipur Tiger Reserve. It spans an expansive area of 847.981 square kilometres, stretching across the districts of Mysore and Kodagu. Within its boundaries, the area offers abundant space for the flourishing wildlife it protects and nurtures.

As a pivotal participant in conservation efforts, Nagarhole plays a crucial role in both Project Tiger and Project Elephant, dedicated to safeguarding these magnificent species. It boasts a remarkable diversity of flora and fauna, with large assemblages of carnivores such as tigers, leopards, asiatic wild dogs, and sloth bears, along with herbivores like asiatic elephants, gaurs, sambars, chitals, and more. The harmonious coexistence of various wildlife species makes this sanctuary a haven for both the predators and their prey.

A Tapestry of Nature's Bounty

Nagarahole's geographical significance is further enhanced by its contiguity with the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala to the south and Bandipur Tiger Reserve in the southeastern part. The park is generously adorned with numerous streams and rivulets, enhancing the beauty and ecological balance of the region. Two prominent water bodies, the Kabini and Taraka reservoirs, grace the western and southeastern corners of the reserve, providing essential hydration to the rich biodiversity.

The remarkable density of tiger populations in Nagarhole has earned it a distinguished position among India's tiger reserves, rivaled only by Corbett and Kaziranga. Its varied landscapes, coupled with sinuous streams that snake through the terrain, leave visitors and wildlife enthusiasts in awe of the untouched natural beauty.

A Haven for Avian Admirers

Nagarhole Tiger Reserve is not only a paradise for animal enthusiasts but also an enchanting destination for bird lovers. The diverse habitats and thriving ecosystems of the reserve attract an astonishing variety of birds, creating a delightful opportunity for birdwatchers. Numerous avian species frequent this sanctuary, providing a mesmerizing

spectacle for those eager to witness the vibrant feathered creatures in their natural habitats.

During my journey through Nagarhole, I had the privilege of meeting Naveen Rawat, the Deputy Range Forest Officer (DRFO) of the reserve. He shared insights into the conservation efforts and expressed his satisfaction in welcoming visitors from all around the world.

"Apart from Indian nationals, we welcome a considerable influx of foreign visitors, mainly from Asian and European countries. The stunning landscape serves as a delightful retreat for nature enthusiasts, offering them the opportunity to immerse themselves in the wilderness while actively contributing to our conservation endeavours," Rawat said.

His passion for nature and wildlife is evident in his efforts to create a Butterfly Park at his official residence. The park was born out of his fascination with butterflies and his desire to preserve their delicate beauty. Today, it stands as a tribute to the wonders of nature, showcasing the vibrant colours of these winged jewels.

During my visit, one of the distinguished guests was Scheffel Frank, the chief scientific officer at Lemur Conservation. He exuded sheer enthusiasm as he explored Nagarhole, thoroughly captivated by its wonders. While he couldn't spot all the animals he hoped for during his early morning jungle safari, he encountered a captivating array of deers, monkeys, birds, elephants, and wild buffaloes. The reserve's rich biodiversity left a profound impression on him, and he acknowledged the need to protect such natural wonders.

My sojourn into Nagarhole Tiger Reserve was an unforgettable experience that left me humbled by the splendor of nature and the importance of conservation. This wildlife sanctuary, with its thriving tiger and elephant populations, diverse landscapes, and flourishing avian life, is a testament to the beauty and fragility of the natural world. As we continue to tread the path of responsible travel and conservation, may Nagarhole stand as a reminder of our duty to protect and preserve these invaluable treasures for generations to come.



Scheffel Frank



India's tiger population tops 3,600

India's wild tiger population is estimated to now exceed 3,600, according to new government figures released recently, in a vindication of conservation efforts for the endangered species.

Tigers once roamed throughout central, eastern and southern Asia, but have lost nearly 95 percent of their historical range in the past century.

India is currently home to 75 percent of the world's tigers, and the country declared its population of the big cats had risen to 3,167 in April after a camera-based survey.

Further analysis of the same survey data by the Wildlife Institute of India found that average tiger numbers were better estimated at 3,682 across the country, the government said in a press release.

The numbers reflected "a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum", it said.

"Continued efforts to protect tiger habitats and corridors are crucial for securing the future of India's tigers and their ecosystems for generations to come."

India is believed to have had a tiger population of around 40,000 at the time of independence from Britain in 1947.

That fell over subsequent decades to about 3,700 in 2002, then to an all-time low of 1,411 four years later, but numbers have since risen steadily.

Deforestation, poaching and human encroachment on habitats have devastated tiger populations across Asia.

But Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in April that India had been able to increase its numbers thanks to "people's participation" and the country's "culture of conservation".

Backyard Butterfly Park

In recent years, the study of butterfly species has emerged as a crucial aspect of conservation biology, gaining significant importance. Inside the Nagarahole National Park, a Butterfly Park has been established by Naveen Rawat, an enthusiastic forest officer. Driven by his unwavering passion and dedication, what initially started as a hobby has now evolved into a profound mission to elevate conservation efforts to new heights.

Out of the 17,000 documented butterfly species found across the globe, India has identified a total of 1,504 butterfly species to date, contributing to 8.7 percent of the world's butterfly diversity. Among the regions in India, Karnataka alone boasts 325 of these butterfly species.

"I find myself captivated by the butterflies that grace Nagarahole Tiger Reserve," expressed Rawat, the individual responsible for establishing the park within his official residence. His interest in butterflies grew as he noticed numerous species gracefully fluttering in his improvised garden. Gradually, he transformed the garden into a fully-fledged butterfly sanctuary, which is now enclosed by a grand butterfly-shaped fence.

Rawat's innovative approach involves using locally available materials such as bamboo, discarded tires, and other resources to create the Butterfly Park.

Karnataka proudly boasts its own State butterfly, the Southern Birdwing (*Troides minos*), which holds the distinction of being the largest butterfly species. Endemic to South India, this majestic butterfly exhibits colours that resemble those on the State Flag. The Nagarahole region is home to over 160 butterfly species, and although there were even more in the past, an accurate count awaits confirmation until a census is conducted.

The decline in butterfly species at Nagarahole Tiger Reserve is due to human activities and environmental changes beyond their tolerance limits. This issue is common in protected areas, including the 843.39 square kilometers Nagarahole National Park, which spans Mysuru and Kodagu districts. A 2018 report by researchers Basavarajappa, Gopi Krishna, and Santhosh documented 138 butterfly species from various families in the Tiger Reserve, including Angled Pierrot, Common Hedge Blue, Southern Birdwing, and many others.

Forest officer Rawat stands as an irreplaceable beacon of hope for conservation efforts in India. Although he ardently dedicates himself to butterfly conservation within the confines of his own backyard, it has become evident that the safeguarding of these rare species requires a more cohesive and coordinated approach from the authorities.



Naveen Rawat, DRFO, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve



Masters Athletics Meet

The inaugural Masters Athletics Meet, hosted by the Indian Sports Center, took place at the Ideal Indian School. The event garnered more than 400 registrations across four different events, spanning various age groups for both men and women from the local community. The competition featured a range of disciplines including 100m sprint, 800m race, triple jump, and shot put. Participants from seven distinct age categories vied for a total of 56 gold medals, alongside silver and bronze medals, highlighting the spirit of healthy competition.



ICC Eid Bazaar

The Indian Cultural Centre organized ICC Eid Bazaar on the eve of Eid day. The event provided a platform for Indian entrepreneurs to display their products and services, featuring highlights like henna painting, handicrafts, beauty products, and more. Padma Karri, the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy, was the chief guest. The stalls and attractions received an overwhelming response from the Indian community, making the event a great success.



International Women's Day celebrations by Indian Community Centre



G20 Summit sparks tourism surge in India's exotic destinations

The G20 meetings held at top tourist hotspots across the country have brought India on the global tourist map. Not only that, the G20 meetings have augmented cooperation among governments, the private sector and various stakeholders to increase high-end travellers' footfalls.

Under India's G-20 Presidency, over 200 meetings were planned at over 60 exotic destinations including Kashmir, Jodhpur in Rajasthan, in Madhya Pradesh, Kumarakom in Kerala, Goa among others. The collaboration between governments ensured that the G20 delegates who visited India enjoyed a memorable experience.

Union Tourism Minister, G Kishan Reddy, highlighted that the upgraded infrastructure in host cities and the initiatives taken to enhance capacity in these cities will ensure more tourists can be accommodated, during the peak travel season in India, which begins from end September until March-April.

Reddy emphasized that the G-20 meetings increased visibility for India's prominent tourist destinations. The administration of these cities ensured that various heritage monuments were spruced and would be maintained throughout. The delegates were given a hands-on tour and got to witness India's rich natural and cultural heritage.

To promote local handicrafts and artisanal products, state governments had set up art and craft bazaars during the Tourism Working Group meetings.

Moreover, with India hosting the ICC Men's World Cup 2023, sports fans who will be visiting the country for crickets matches, would easily be able to travel to tourist destinations surrounding cities where the games would be played.

The government is further promoting far flung destinations to increase footfalls in scenic destinations like Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the new integrated terminal building of the Veer Savarkar Airport in Andamans and said that tourist inflows have doubled since 2014 to the archipelago. It will continue to rise manifold given the infrastructure development that is taking place on the remote islands. The new terminal will be able to handle 11,000 passengers and 10 aircraft can be parked at the airport at any given time.

Sustainable tourism

Tourism in India is known for its role in supporting and sustaining local economies by generating economic opportunities and employment for the local communities. The objective is to empower these communities through tourism and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This approach has been well-received by delegates who acknowledge its positive impact.

The significance of sustainable tourism cannot be underestimated, particularly due to its potential to generate a substantial number of jobs, particularly through skill development initiatives aimed at the local population. The organizers aim to harness the power of digitization to offer "Ease of Tourism," a convenient and accessible experience that benefits both international and domestic tourists alike.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently emphasized the importance of engaging with people at the grassroots level and expanding the scope of activities beyond a limited number of urban centers. As a result, there has been a shift towards organizing decentralised G20 events, encouraging the involvement of Heads of State, ministers, senior officials, and representatives from various multilateral and other organizations.

The combination of these decentralised events and numerous engagement group meetings has sparked a wave of positive activity and sentiment at the local level. This development holds great promise for the tourism sector, as it generates enthusiasm and interest among the local population, paving the way for potential growth and opportunities in the industry.

The bolstering of local infrastructure for G20 meetings, capacity-building of local human resources, police personnel, and hotel staff and the beautification of tourist spots will improve the ability of local communities to receive tourists in the future.

India is a remarkable tourist destination, offering many experiences, including 40 Unesco World Heritage sites, archaeological remains of ancient civilisations, a vast variety of wildlife in national parks and sanctuaries, the world's highest mountain ranges, expansive beaches, the magnificent desert and a rich cultural heritage. Being one of the world's oldest civilisations, India is an all-embracing confluence of religions, traditions, and customs. The highlights of heritage lie in the treasure of its art, architecture, classical dance, music, flora and fauna and the innate secular philosophy of its people. Every state is resplendent with different styles of temples, gurdwaras, mosques, monasteries, and churches, many of which have been declared heritage sites for their antiquity and craftsmanship. Sacred cities such as Varanasi, Haridwar, Amritsar and Bodhgaya offer a tranquil environment of religious beliefs and spirituality. A visit to India would be incomplete without experiencing the beauty and richness of these sites.





Millet promotion earns global recognition

India's efforts in promoting nutritious millets led to the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Millets offer nutritional benefits, climate resilience, and livelihood support. India is actively promoting millets and value-added products globally to combat food insecurity and foster sustainability.

The United Nations (UN) declared 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa (IYQ), a little-known "miracle" plant. After this declaration, Quinoa emerged as an important crop with the potential to find a place in the global food value system, transcending international boundaries.

Due to the awareness created during the international year, quinoa market prices increased manifold, driven by high demand in the world market, leading to increased consumption worldwide. In India, too, consumption of quinoa increased manifold, particularly in urban areas.

After a decade, it was a historic moment for India when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), at its 75th session in March 2021, declared 2023 the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023) to bolster global demand and meet the nutritional requirements of the burgeoning population. The proposal of India garnered support from 72 countries. The decision of the UNGA will serve the best interests of developing countries, which contribute 97 per cent of global millet production. The world agreed to shift its focus to these nutritious grains and decided to proceed with India's proposal to popularise millets as an alternative food supplement.

Prior to that, recognising the importance of millets, the Government of India observed 2018 as the Year of Millets to encourage and promote their production. Due to the nutritional superiority of millets, the Government of India, in April 2018, notified millets as Nutri-Cereals, which were hitherto popularly known as Coarse Grains. A sub-mission of Nutri-cereals/millets is being implemented under the National Food Security Mission in 212 districts of 14 states in India. Nutri Cereals comprise sorghum (Jowar), pearl millet (Bajra), finger millet (Ragi/Mandua), and small millets viz: little millet (Kutki), kodo millet (Kodo), barnyard millet (Sawa/Jhangora), foxtail millet (Kangni/Kakun), proso millet (Cheena). Buckwheat and Amaranthus have also been notified as nutri-cereals.

The major millet-producing States in India are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. However, the top five millet-producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Given the importance of Millets in Indian tradition and culture, they have been rechristened as Shree Anna, which means the best among all food grains. Millets are becoming a medium of holistic development in India as they are linked with both Gaon (village) and Garib (the poor).

Indian millets are now in the process of gaining the lost glory, and efforts are on to make them the world's acclaimed food supplement



due to their nutritional importance in combating lifestyle-based diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and other lifestyle problems. Millets are gluten-free, have a low glycemic index, and are high in dietary fiber and antioxidants.

Traditionally in India, millets are grown under dry and rain-fed conditions and used to be the staple food in rural areas. The rural people used to rue the non-availability of rice and wheat and always aspired to replace millets with rice and wheat. But look at the irony, as people became aware of the benefits of millets, city dwellers are now switching over to millets, oats, quinoa, etc. Today, millets have a key role in the gourmet kitchen, and their use can also be extended to pharmaceutical and other industrial uses.

The Seven Sutras (themes) for IYOM 2023 are: Enhancement of Production/Productivity, Nutrition and health benefits, Value-addition, Processing & Recipe Development, Entrepreneurship/Start-up/Collective Development, Awareness creation - Branding, Labelling & Promotion, International outreach, Policy interventions for mainstreaming.

Millets are important due to their requirement for a shorter growing season, ability to adapt to a wide range of temperatures, moisture-regimes, and input conditions, besides their ability to convert more carbon dioxide into oxygen. Additionally, the immense potential of millets to provide food and feed for the smallholder farmers of drylands and domestic animals makes them a popular choice for ensuring food and nutritional security.

India is the topmost producer of millets followed by Nigeria. Millet crops are generally grown as rain-fed crops in the country on marginal/poor fertile soils, with about 78 per cent of millet area covered under rain-fed cultivation. Globally, India dominates the global area at 20 per cent and production at 18 per cent. The area

under millet cultivation falls in the range of 12-14 million ha with 16-18 million tons of production and 11-13 tons of productivity.

To encourage farmers to grow Shree Anna and to ensure remunerative prices, significant increases have been affected so that farmers receive a minimum return of 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production.

Faced with the challenge of increasing the production of quality food to feed the world's human and livestock population in the context of climate change, millets offer an alternative for those countries suffering from food insecurity. Millets have the requisite potential to play an important role in eradicating hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. This notion is substantiated by the very fact that due to the Ukraine-Russia crisis affecting the world supplies of wheat, millets can be a good substitute for wheat and rice. Millets offer nutrition, resilience, income, and livelihood for farmers even in difficult times. Therefore, millets are termed as Smart Food as they are good for consumers, good for the farmer, good for the planet, and are "Crops of the Future".

In times of climate change, they are often the last crop standing and thus are a good risk management strategy for resource-poor marginal farmers. These are promising sustainable future food sources amidst worsening climatic conditions. Millets, as Super-Foods, are nutritionally superior to wheat and rice, owing to their higher levels of protein with a more balanced amino acid profile, crude fiber, and minerals such as Iron, Zinc, and Phosphorous.

A study conducted in peri-urban areas of Karnataka evaluated the acceptance and impact of incorporating millets into the mid-day meal of school children. It was found that the mid-day meal was a major contributor to the daily calorie intake of the child. Also, the introduction of millets into the diet had resulted in a statistical improvement in the stunting and body mass index of the children. Thus, millets can be used as a potential ingredient to combat malnutrition.

The main importers of millets from India are Nepal, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. The Indian diaspora dispersed along the length and breadth of the world must be associated with enhancing exports, with a focus on countries with substantial Non-Resident Indians.

Value-added products developed from millets:

The Government has also launched a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the promotion of Millets. The primary objectives of this scheme include support for the creation of global food manufacturing champions and supporting Indian brands of food products in international markets. Specific food product segments with high growth potential have been identified for providing support under the scheme. These include ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat foods, including millet-based products.

The Government has taken several steps for the promotion of Millets. Over 500 start-ups are working in the Millet value chain, while the Indian Institute on Millet Research has incubated 250 start-



ups. 180 Farmer Producer Organizations have been constituted in India exclusively for the promotion of millets.

In order to facilitate the movement of millets, the Government has revised the guidelines for the movement of surplus millet production to other States. The provision of inter-State transportation of surplus millets through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is incorporated to cater to advance demand placed by consuming states before the start of procurement. The Government, through the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), has created the Nutri Cereals Export Promotion Forum.

The Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN), formerly known as the National Programme on Mid-Day Meal in Schools, which provides one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools, wherein millets can be used by States/UTs under the scheme.

The primary and secondary processing methods used by ICAR-Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, in the Centre of Excellence (CoEs) set up by the Government of India, aim to develop good quality value-added products of millets. These products are now promoted and have aided in spreading nutritional awareness of millets among the consumers. They have gained wide momentum from consumers, creating lots of interest among entrepreneurs as they see more business opportunities in these nutritious, convenient, and healthy millet foods.

International outreach:

Policy interventions for mainstreaming 16 programs are being planned by APEDA for the promotion of millets and value-added products of millets in the UAE, Indonesia, the USA, Japan, the UK, Germany, Australia, Republic of Korea, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia. The total global imports of millets amount to \$4,708.43 million, of which China alone imports millets worth \$3,054.17 million (64.86 per cent), with India's exports worth \$66.48 million.

During the promotion program, Buyers Sellers Meets, Road Shows, and participation in major international events will be organised to promote millets and value-added products of millets.

NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) on 20 December 2021. The partnership focuses on mainstreaming millets and supporting India in taking the lead globally in knowledge exchange, using the opportunity of 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Further, the partnership will aim at building resilient livelihoods for small-holder farmers and adaptation capacities to climate change and transforming food systems. The SoI focuses on strategic and technical collaboration between NITI Aayog and WFP to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture for enhanced food and nutrition security in India.

Millets can be introduced in the regions wherever they grow naturally in the public distribution system and Mid-day meal scheme to save money on transportation and storage. Indian Embassies worldwide can distribute millets and their products to other embassies during official celebrations and functions. Moreover, they can serve millet delicacies in the official programs hosted by them.

Normally, people don't eat millets in summers, so ICMR in collaboration with ICAR, the National Institute of Nutrition, and Food and public distribution Departments must carry out clinical trials on suitability in summers, and apportionment studies can also be carried out.

Though the recipes of millet preparations are available, these need to be refined for their wider acceptability. So area-specific recipes with various millets and varied combinations, basically a bouquet of options, are to be made available. For that, tasters need to be engaged by FSSAI and other food development agencies.



The Government of India has always been very sensitive to the issues faced by the farmers and has taken various proactive initiatives to address each problem faced by them. India is now focusing on enhancing productivity, making post-harvest management robust, and giving farmers and buyers a unified national market to optimise benefits for addressing nutritional challenges and bringing diversity in the country's agri-food systems.

By declaring 2023 as "The International Year of Millets," the UN General Assembly has set the tone for increasing the area of cultivation of millet worldwide. India, as the world's largest producer of millets, is taking wide-ranging steps to implement the benefits of this opportunity.

INDIA'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF PEARL MILLET

Most of the pearl millet area is grown with hybrids while the varieties are preferred in drought prone ecologies. Pearl millet is the most important member of the genus *Pennisetum* in the tribe Paniceae. It has received a variety of taxonomic treatments, and its scientific binomials have been frequently shuffled by a variety of taxonomists.





Mastering the art of monsoon monitoring

Over the past year, the children in Kerala's schools have embraced the role of local meteorologists with enthusiasm, diligently recording 24-hour rain data, maximum-minimum temperature, humidity, wind speed, and direction. Their dedicated efforts are geared towards understanding micro-weather patterns and acquiring valuable insights into the local climate

By Surya K

At precisely 11:30 am, the class 12 student of Kariyad Nambiar's Higher Secondary School, located in Kannur District, eagerly embrace their break time. Among them, a spirited bunch of humanities students armed with pens and writing pads step out of their classroom, filled with excitement for their weather-related expedition. The sky above them wears a blanket of overcast clouds, perfectly complementing the ambiance for their mission ahead.

Their objective for the day is to record the weather data from the past 24 hours at the school's weather station, aptly named the Kerala School Weather Station (KSWs). To ensure they gather accurate information and learn effectively, they receive guidance from their geography teacher, Vibinlal CH, who also serves as a state project team member of the KSWs (Kerala School Weather Station).

With pens poised and writing pads at the ready, these ambitious students are all set to delve into the world of weather data recording under their knowledgeable teacher's watchful eye.

For a little over a year, children in Kerala's schools have been making a mark every day, rain or shine. They are the local meteorologists, recording 24-hour rain data, maximum-minimum temperature, humidity and wind speed and direction, and using that to understand micro-weather patterns and climate.

Among the 258 schools in the state, Kariyad Nambiar's HSS stands out as one where the Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK) of the General Education Department has installed a weather station. The project, fully funded by SSK, equips each school with all the necessary instruments for the weather station, meticulously designed according to the standards set by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Speaking about the endeavor, Vibinlal said the school weather stations have generated much curiosity among the students. "Undoubtedly, the most noteworthy aspect of this system is that students acquire real-time practical knowledge



Students at Kariyad Nambiar's Higher Secondary School engaged in measuring the rain under the guidance of their geography teacher, Vibinlal CH.

that complements the theoretical lessons taught in the classroom," he said.

The data collected by young weather enthusiasts in Kerala schools can contribute to improving our understanding of monsoon patterns and their impact on local communities in several ways:

1. Enhanced Data Coverage: By involving young weathermen in data collection, a broader geographical area can be covered, providing a more comprehensive dataset. This increased coverage can help identify localized weather

patterns, variations, and microclimates within Kerala, which may have specific implications for different communities.

2. Long-Term Data Trends: Consistent data collection over time by young weathermen can contribute to building long-term datasets, allowing for the analysis of trends and patterns in monsoon behaviour. This historical information can help identify changes, shifts, or anomalies in monsoon patterns, aiding in understanding climate dynamics and their impact on local communities.

3. Community-Specific Impacts: Local weather data collected by young weathermen can provide insights into the specific impacts of monsoons on different communities within Kerala. By correlating weather data with local community observations, such as agricultural practices, water management, or infrastructure vulnerabilities, a more nuanced understanding of the monsoon's effects on livelihoods, agriculture, and other sectors can be gained.

4. Validation of Weather Models: The data collected by young weather enthusiasts can contribute to the validation and refinement of weather models used to predict monsoon patterns. By comparing the observed data with model predictions, scientists and meteorologists can assess the accuracy and reliability of these models, leading to improved forecasting capabilities and more reliable information for local communities.

5. Education and Awareness: Involving young weathermen in data collection fosters a sense of ownership and engagement with meteorology and climate science. It promotes awareness and understanding of weather patterns, climate change, and their impacts among students and the broader community. This can lead to increased preparedness, adaptation strategies, and informed decision-making related to monsoons.

To put it succinctly, collaboration among educational institutions, meteorological departments, and scientific organisations such as the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Cochin University of Science and Technology, along with the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), has the potential to streamline the gathering, examination, and application of this invaluable data. This collaboration plays a crucial role in enhancing our comprehension of monsoon patterns and their impact on local communities in Kerala.



With the aim of imparting practical lessons to school students, SWS is a first-of-its-kind-educational project in the country.

Technology bridging the gender gap in financial inclusion

For over a decade, India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has been harnessed for cash transfers to citizens through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) programme. The DBT programme has grown exponentially since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recent studies show that in India and the developing world, government-to-person (G2P) transfers have become a significant factor in women's adoption of financial services. Women's decision-making powers within their homes improve due to digital G2P payments, which also has a positive impact on their employment, health, and education. But women continue to face barriers in digital access and usage, along with adverse norms, which impacts their digital financial inclusion.

Aligning with G20 priorities of financial inclusion and women's economic empowerment, this policy brief reviews the use of digital technology in G2P payments to women in India, analyse the gaps, and draw lessons for emerging economies. It offers recommendations to the G20 to strengthen digital G2P payment programmes.

In 2013, the Indian government introduced DBT. The programme had a few stated objectives: To reduce fiscal leakages, eliminate corruption, reduce costs, and increase efficiency in the delivery of welfare. It would simultaneously accelerate financial inclusion and social empowerment through transfers made directly into citizens' bank accounts.

The DBT programme, which has led to savings of 2.73 trillion between 2013 and 2022, has grown to cover nearly all welfare schemes by the government, ranging from pensions and wages, to health, education, rural development, housing, and subsidies in food, fuel, and agricultural. More than 6.9 trillion was transferred in 2022-23 compared to 3.8 trillion in 2019-20, an increase of over 80% cash transfers as cash transfers became a lifeline during the Covid-19 pandemic. India is not alone in this; the pandemic led to the largest scale-up of cash transfers for social protection globally, which were planned or implemented in 186 countries.



DBT has been built on the back of the robust digital public infrastructure (DPI) framework, which has helped India advance its development goals, fast-track financial inclusion, and enable

efficient delivery of public services. DPI, which allows for exponential outcomes, has helped India accelerate financial inclusion by four decades.

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127TTC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65°C Dual Inverter Compressor™ with 10Year Warranty 60% Faster Cooling/ 15% More Cooling Comfort Sleep 4Way Swing 65% Energy Saving Dual Protection Filter 	QR. 3,399
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Multispecialty digital health clinics lead the way

The digital health landscape in India is undergoing a transformative shift with the emergence of multi-specialty digital health clinics. These innovative healthcare platforms integrate cutting-edge technology with expert medical practitioners from diverse disciplines to provide comprehensive and specialised care to patients.

According to industry statistics, the digital healthcare market in India is projected to reach \$8 billion by 2025, with digital health clinics playing a crucial role in this growth. These clinics offer a convenient and efficient approach to healthcare delivery, especially in regions with limited access to quality medical services.

By leveraging teleconsultation, remote monitoring, and artificial intelligence, multispecialty digital health clinics empower patients with access to a wide range of specialists, fostering collaboration among medical professionals and ultimately enhancing the overall quality of care in the country. The surge in popularity of multispecialty digital health clinics in India is fueled by their ability to effectively address the diverse healthcare needs of patients. In contrast, traditional healthcare models frequently encounter challenges in meeting these requirements.

A Multispecialty digital health clinic addresses these limitations by offering a collaborative and integrated approach. It combines medical practitioners from various specialties, such as dermatology, psychiatry, nutrition science, ayurveda and under one virtual roof.

Patients benefit from this kind of expertise because they benefit from the convenience of accessing a wide range of experts on one platform and receiving comprehensive care tailored to their specific conditions. The integration of specialties in a multispecialty digital health clinic represents a significant shift towards patient-centric healthcare delivery.

There are also some unique features of a multispecialty digital health clinic whereas multispecialty digital health clinic offers various features and services that revolutionize healthcare delivery. It leverages artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the accuracy and efficiency of diagnoses used in conjunction with teleconsultations, allowing patients to connect remotely with specialists from different medical disciplines.

The Technological Progression in the Multispecialty Digital Health Clinic genre as Multispecialty digital health clinic is thriving due to significant technological advancements. According to a report by Statista, the number of smartphone users in India is projected to reach over 900 million by 2023, indicating the widespread availability of mobile technology. Additionally, the global artificial intelligence in the healthcare



market is expected to reach \$45.2 billion by 2026, highlighting the growing adoption of AI in the healthcare sector. These advancements enable multispecialty digital clinics to leverage telemedicine, remote monitoring, and AI-powered analytics. By utilizing these technologies, the clinic improves access to specialized care, enhances treatment outcomes, and drives overall efficiency in healthcare delivery.

It has an Impact on Healthcare Accessibility and Rural Healthcare as they are crucial in addressing healthcare accessibility gaps, particularly in remote areas. According to a study by the Indian Journal of Public Health, over 70% of India's population resides in rural regions with limited access to quality

healthcare.

There are beaming Prospects for Multispecialty Digital Health Clinic that transform healthcare delivery in India. Such a clinic can alleviate the burden on traditional healthcare infrastructure, improve health outcomes, and promote preventive care.

The rise of multispecialty digital health clinics is transforming healthcare in India. The clinic leverages technology and collaboration among specialists to provide comprehensive and convenient care. With continued advancements and government support, they hold great potential for revolutionising healthcare delivery, improving accessibility, and enhancing patient outcomes.



New National Education Policy empowered youth, set new linkages with global institutions



The new National Education Policy (NEP) introduced in 2020 has empowered the youth of the country besides setting up new linkages with global institutions. Several countries have approached India to establish IIT campuses in their respective countries, while global universities are expressing interest in setting up their satellite campuses within India.

The need for a futuristic approach in education as technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) become integral to daily life cannot be overestimated. Other imperatives include reducing academic pressure on students and introducing subjects like disaster management, climate change, and clean energy in schools.

At the same time, NEP 2020 champions the cause of conducting studies predominantly in Indian languages, underscoring the utmost significance of language inclusivity in education. Judging the youth based on their foreign language proficiency and not considering their innate talent perpetuates a gross injustice. Thus NEP 2020 promotes education in mother tongues, seeking to bring real justice to the youth. In pursuit of this noble vision, NEP 2020 endeavours to promote education in the mother tongue, a laudable effort aimed at paying equal respect and opportunities to every language. A testament to its unwavering commitment, the translation of 100 education and skill curriculum (/topic/skill-curriculum) books into 12 Indian languages harmoniously aligns with the policy's grand vision.

To mark this momentous occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the establishment of a special kind of school, known as PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI). These schools are expected to showcase the implementation of the NEP 2020, emerging as examples and setting the pace for other schools in the locality.

They will provide high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful environment taking into account the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children, making them active participants in their own learning

process.

As per the Ministry of Education, the scheme is set to conclude in 2027, after which the responsibility will pass on to the States as well as UTs to maintain these schools. More than 20 lakh students are expected to directly benefit from these schools. The project's total cost is estimated at Rs 27,360 crore spread over 5 years, with the Central government contributing Rs 18,128 crore.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister formally released the initial funds for the development of more than 14,500 schools across the country as part of the PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme. NEP 2020 was indeed launched with the aim of grooming India's youth and equipping them to lead the country during the period known as Amrit Kaal, which spans from India@75 to India@100, signifying the 25-year period from the attainment of independence in 1947. Its objective is to meet the challenges of the future and without forcing the students to lose their anchoring in basic human values. The policy has brought radical transformation in the realms of school, higher and skill education during the three years of its implementation. India introduced a new education policy (/topic/education-policy) after almost two decades through National Education Policy 2020. It was approved by the Indian Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020, serving as a blueprint for the country's education system.

NEP 2020 aims at "producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by our Constitution." The National Education Policy envisages an education system rooted in Indian ethos and driving the transformation of India (Bharat) into a sustainable and equitable knowledge society.

Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, a riveting two-day conclave held on July 29 and 30, coinciding with the third anniversary of NEP 2020. At this grand gathering, luminaries from academia, sector experts, policymakers, industry stalwarts, devoted educators, and eager students representing schools,

higher education, and skill development institutions participated in unison.

This grand congregation became a symphony of insights, resounding success stories, and exemplary best practices, all interwoven with the resolute pursuit of implementing NEP 2020 with firm determination. Embarking upon a journey of transformation, the conclave hosted sixteen captivating sessions, delving into vital themes such as Access to Quality Education and Governance, Equitable and Inclusive Education, Empowering Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups, the National Institute Ranking Framework, the Indian Knowledge Systems, and the Globalization of Education, among an illustrious array of other fascinating topics. The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation Bill in the Parliament.

The National Curriculum Framework under the NEP will soon be launched. Once it is ready, the entire country will have a uniform syllabus. The NCERT is busy preparing new course books for this uniform new syllabus. NCERT is currently preparing new books for education in around 130 subjects with all 22 Indian languages. Celebrating three years of visionary transformation, NEP 2020 marks a glorious milestone on July 29. Its impact resonates globally, forging linkages between Indian academia and international institutions. Embracing a futuristic approach, it addresses the significance of technology, easing academic pressures, and introducing vital subjects.

PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) exemplify its noble vision, setting the pace for equitable and joyful education. Empowering the nation's youth, it carves a pathway to holistic education and research excellence and setting the stage for an enlightened and prosperous tomorrow. At the same time, embracing tradition and innovation, NEP 2020 shapes India's path towards becoming a global knowledge superpower.



Coal Sector Records New High of 223.36 Million Tonnes, 8.55% Growth from Previous Year

India's coal production grew 8.55% year-on-year (YoY) to 223.36 million tonne (MT) during the June ended quarter of fiscal 2023-24, the ministry of coal said in a statement recently.

"India's coal sector achieved a remarkable milestone in the first quarter of FY 2023-24, by recording highest ever coal production at 223.36 million tonne (MT), representing a substantial growth of 8.55% compared to the production of 205.76 MT during the same period during FY 2022-23," the ministry said.

Coal India Limited (CIL) clocked 175.48 MT of production between April and June, marking a growth rate of 9.85%YoY.

"The consistent upward trajectory in coal production highlights India's commitment to meet its energy demands and drive sustainable economic growth," it added.

While coal imports increased by 16.76% on year during April to May, as compared to the same period in the previous year, it is important to note that the rise was primarily due to the substantial decline in import prices. Import prices for coal plummeted by over 60% in the Q1 of FY24 from a year ago.

Consequently, the e-auction premium over the notified prices of CIL witnessed a significant reduction, declining from 357% in June 2022 to 54% in June 2023.

"The premium on coal auction speaks of pulse of industry. The sharp decline in coal auction premium is indicative of adequate coal availability in domestic market. This decline in import prices has played a crucial role in shaping the import landscape for coal," the statement said.

As far as availability is concerned, there is enough stock of coal available in the country which is 107.15 MT (67 MT with coal companies, 33.61 MT with TPP (DCB) & 6.54 MT at Private Washeries/Good shed siding/Ports) during the end of June, indicating a growth of 37.62% on year.

The availability of substantial coal stock ensures a stable supply for various sectors dependent on coal, thereby contributing to the overall energy security of the nation.



Per capita income likely to grow nearly 70% to \$4,000 by FY30

The country's per capita income is likely to grow by close to 70 per cent to USD 4,000 by fiscal 2030 from USD 2,450 in fiscal 2023, helping it become a middle-income economy with USD 6-trillion GDP, more than half of which will be coming in from household consumption, says a research report.

Per capita income/GDP has risen from USD 460 in fiscal 2001 to USD 1,413 in fiscal 2011 and further to USD 2,150 in fiscal 2021.

The biggest growth driver will be external trade which may nearly double to USD 2.1 trillion by 2030 from USD 1.2 trillion in fiscal 2023 when the GDP printed in at USD 3.5 trillion, Standard Chartered Bank said in a weekend report which assumes a 10 per cent nominal GDP growth annually from now on.

According to the report, the second biggest growth driver will be household consumption which is seen jumping to USD 3.4 trillion by fiscal 2030—which as big as the current size of the GDP—from USD 2.1 trillion in fiscal 2023. Household consumption is as much as 57 per cent of GDP now.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently said that he would ensure that the economy becomes USD 5 trillion during his next term in office, which will make it the third largest after the US and China. Currently, Japan is at the third slot and Germany at four.

The report sees as many as nine states growing to the upper middle income country status with USD 4,000 in per capita income, up from just one now, the report said sans naming the state.

Currently, Telangana leads in the per capita income league table with Rs 2,75,443 or USD 3,360 in FY23, followed by Karnataka with (Rs 2,65,623), Tamil Nadu (Rs 2,41,131), Kerala (Rs 2,30,601), and Andhra Pradesh with Rs 2,07,771.

But StanC report sees Gujarat leading on this from by fiscal 2030, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The report also did not name other three states, though.

Among these Telangana, Delhi, Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra together account for 20 per cent of the national GDP today, and will have per capita GDP of USD 6,000 by fiscal 2030.



On the other hand, large states UP and Bihar, which together make up 25 per cent of the population, will have per capita income below USD 2,000 even in fiscal 2030, which still be two times their fiscal 2020 levels.

Currently, the household consumption expenditure accounts for 57 per cent of its GDP and if household expenditure share falls by 1 per cent, the size of the consumer market will still be the size of the economy today.

The overriding growth enabler will continue to be the higher share of working age population. The share of working age population in the country in 2020 was 64.2 per cent, which will rise to 64.8 per cent, may marginally slip to 63.6 per cent in 2040 and further down to 61.1 per cent in 2050.

This will help the economy benefit from labour efficiency, capital deployment, and continued increase in working age population. The report also names the consistent reform progress, macro stability, healthy financial sector, deleveraging of corporate sector and public capex push as other growth enablers.



PM hails recent achievements of sportspersons

Hailing the achievements of Indian sportspersons, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently said India often found no mention in international events earlier, but things have changed now and even a few weeks' success list is quite long.

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast, Modi said last month, there have been several great news for India from the sports world.

The Indian team raised the glory of the Tricolour by winning the Hockey Women's Junior Asia Cup for the first time, he said.

"This month itself, our men's hockey team also won the Junior Asia Cup," Modi pointed out.

"With that, we have also become the team with the most wins in the history of this tournament," he added.

The Indian junior team also did wonders at the Junior Shooting World Cup, Modi said, adding that it has secured the first position in this tournament.

"Of the total gold medals in this tournament, 20 per cent have come in India's account alone," he said.



The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team achieved a remarkable triumph in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023, which took place in Kakamigahara, Gifu Prefecture, Japan. They secured the championship title by defeating Korea in a captivating final match, with a score of 2-1.



Murali Sreeshankar registered an impressive 8.09m attempt to finish third in the men's long jump event at the Paris Diamond League 2023.

The prime minister said the hard work put in by the country's sportspersons at the national level is behind this success in international events.

"Today, sports are organised with a new enthusiasm in various states of the country. These give players a chance to play, win and learn from defeat," he said, citing the example of the Khelo India University Games organised in Uttar Pradesh recently.

"A lot of enthusiasm was observed in the youth. Our youth have broken 11 records in these games... Punjab University, Amritsar's Guru Nanak Dev University and Karnataka's Jain University have occupied the first three places in the medal tally," Modi noted.

"A major aspect of such tournaments is that many inspiring stories of young players come to the fore," he said.

"In the rowing event at the Khelo India University Games, Assam's Cotton University's Anyatam Rajkumar became the first Divyang athlete to participate. Nidhi Pawaiya of Barkatullah University managed to win a gold medal in shot-put despite a serious knee injury," Modi added.

"Shubham Bhandare of Savitribai Phule Pune University who had suffered a disappointment in Bengaluru last year due to an ankle injury has become a gold medallist in the steeplechase this time," he further said.

Similarly, Saraswati Kundu of Burdwan University is the captain of her kabaddi team who crossed many difficulties to reach there, Modi said.

The prime minister said many of the best-performing athletes are also getting a lot of help from the TOPS Scheme. "The more our sportspersons play, the more they'll bloom," he added.

The Asian U20 Athletics Championship was also held this June and in this, India remained in the top three in medal tally among 45 participating countries, the prime minister said.

"Earlier, there used to be a time when we used to come to know about international events but often there was no mention of India in them. But today, I am just mentioning the successes of the past few weeks, even then the list has become so long. This is the real strength of our youth," he said.

There are many such sports and competitions where India is making her presence felt for the first time, Modi stressed.

"For example, in the long jump, Shrishankar Murali has won a bronze for the country in a prestigious event like the Paris Diamond League. This is India's first medal in this competition. One such similar success has been registered by our Under Seventeen Women Wrestling Team in Kyrgyzstan. I congratulate all these athletes of the country, their parents and coaches for their efforts," he said.



Junior Asia Cup hockey: India reign supreme with 2-1 win over Pakistan; bag record fourth title.



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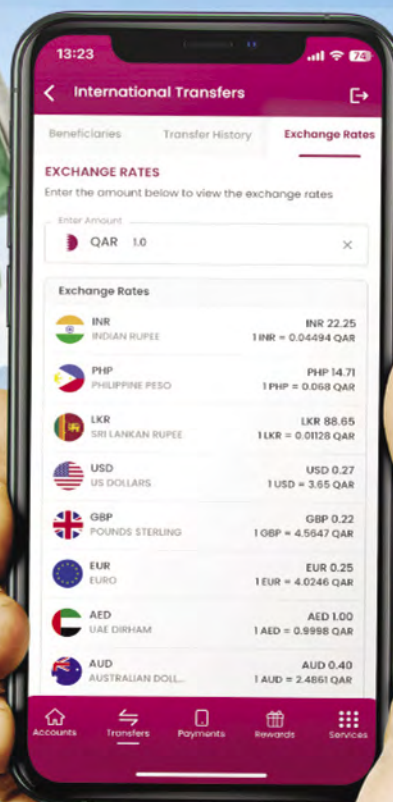
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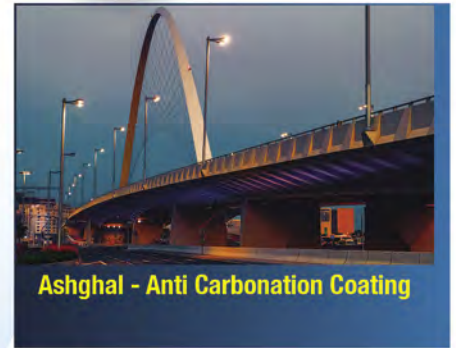
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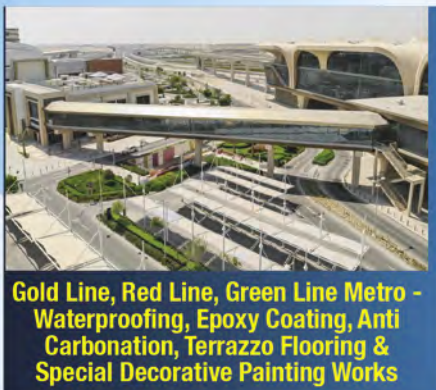
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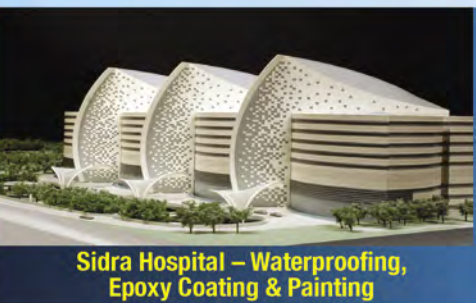
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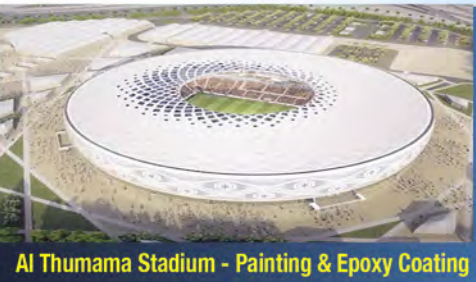
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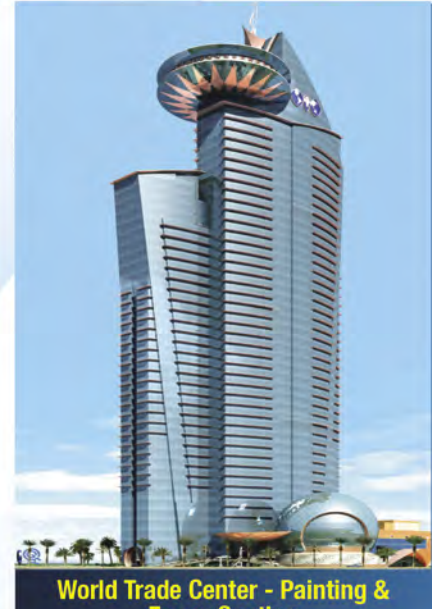
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