

76th Independence Day of india

15 AUGUST 2022

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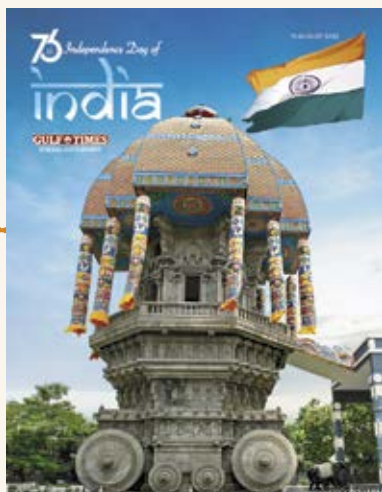


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Raya Commercial Printing Press

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Gulf Times/Arrayah Building
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Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Dr Deepak Mittal
Ambassador of India to Qatar

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Independence of India, I congratulate and extend warm greetings to all my fellow Indians living in Qatar.

I take this opportunity to also express our gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and all Members of the Royal Family, the Government of the State of Qatar for their continued patronage and support to the Indian community in Qatar.

This day marks a new milestone in India's journey of the 75 years since Independence. We are entering *Amrit Kaal* (the golden era) that paves the way for New India and a journey towards the Centennial Celebrations in 25 years.

At this historic juncture, all Indians, especially those born in free and Independent India, remember and pay homage to our brave freedom fighters and the unsung heroes of our freedom struggle whose supreme sacrifices ensured that today 1.4 billion people are living lives with pride and dignity. We remember great leaders like Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subash Bose, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Baba Saheb Ambedkar who laid the foundations of Modern India.

Every Indian is proud of 75 years' journey of Independent India. There is a lot to celebrate. This includes - unity in diversity — Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat; freedoms and equal opportunities guaranteed in our Constitution to all citizens irrespective of caste, colour, creed, sex, race, religion, region; democracy that ensured inclusive and participative governance and withstood the test of times. It is no mean achievement that in the 75th year, the people of India have made history by electing the second woman President and first ever from a tribal background. It is a befitting testimony to the core values enshrined in the Constitutions through which the state has been striving to attain socio-economic equality for the past many decades. Every Indian can be proud of the fact that India has emerged from being a low income country to be among top five economies globally; India has made strides in science and technology, including space and nuclear sciences; India is one of the leading centers of innovation and Information Technology globally; India is Pharmacy of the World; India has world class production and manufacturing capabilities; India is a leading global partner to address new age challenges facing the humanity, be it climate change or building resilient and reliable supply chains to ensure food and health security. India continues to contribute in keeping with our ethos of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*" or the 'World is One Family'.

Today, we celebrate our *Tiranga* (the Tricolour National flag) through *Har Ghar Tiranga* movement. It is a symbol of our diversity, unity, and Independence. I am glad that the Indian community in Qatar has been actively celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav. I thank the friendly people and the Government of Qatar for sharing the joy of the Indian community in Qatar and being part of this *Mahotsav*.

It goes without saying that Qatar is a natural partner to New India. We enjoy historical relationship based on the strong foundations of people of people contacts. Qatar has been a valuable and reliable partner in India's developmental journey of India.

We enjoy very strong political relations and maintained momentum of high-level exchanges. Our leadership have maintained regular communications. The Vice President of India paid first ever visit to the State of Qatar in June 2022. It marked a new milestone and opened a new chapter in the bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister of India has visited Qatar on a few occasions and along with the Deputy PM and FM H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin AbdelRahman Al Thani laid the foundation stone for new Indian chancery building in Qatar in February 2022. Minister of State for External and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraliedharan visited Qatar in May 2022.

These high-level exchanges have naturally deepened the multifaceted bilateral ties in trade, investment, energy, defence, education, culture, health, technology and opened new windows of opportunities. Bilateral trade and investment partnership continue to grow. Last year, bilateral trade crossed \$15 billion, recording 63% increase year-on-year. India is the fourth largest export destination for Qatar and third largest with respect to its imports. Qatar's investments in India have increased fivefolds over the past two years. In February 2022, QIA committed US\$ 1.5 billion to financially support Bodhi tree, an investment platform jointly formed by Lupa Systems and Star India. India's edtech major Byju's signed an MoU with QIA to open an R&D centre in Doha. It is also amazing that Byju's is one of the sponsors to FIFA. Qatar Financial Centre had signed an MoU with Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICA) to promote entrepreneurship and facilitate set up Indian firms in Qatar through collaborative initiatives. In the similar lines, an MoU was signed between International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and the Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA) in January 2022. The launch of "India-Qatar Start Up bridge" aims to link the innovation ecosystems of the two countries.

Bilateral defence and security cooperation between India and Qatar continue to make a meaningful progress with continuous engagement at all levels. A high level delegation headed by Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Commanding in Chief of Indian Navy's Western Naval Command participated in Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition (DIMDEX) in March 2022. INS Kolkata was deputed on the occasion. Qatari Emiri Naval Force participated as Observers in Biennial multilateral Naval exercise MILAN 2022 hosted by Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam.

These age-old ties still continue to feed the current people-to-people contacts be it - cultural, business, trade or other ties. The diverse Indian Community in Qatar epitomizes the fact that both the cultures are intertwined and integrated. It represents India in a microcosm. They have been actively celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* through various cultural, sports, business, welfare,

environmental and other events. It is matter of great joy that India is a partner in Qatar-MENASA Year of Culture 2022, thus further expanding the scope of #IndiaAt75 celebrations. The grandeur of the Indian Community Festival "Passage to India" held in March 2022 which attracted huge crowds, stands as a testimony to the strong cultural connect. The name of Qatar once again entered in the Guinness World Record when Indian Sports Centre successfully conducted a yoga session for maximum number of nationalities.

India-Qatar collaboration in education is already well known with 20 Indian schools running in Qatar and QIA's investment in the EdTech company BYJU's. The opening of first Indian university — Savithribhai Phule University — last year, in Qatar, is paving way for much such collaborations in the field of education.

Nevertheless, I strongly believe that the current level of bilateral relations is only a tip of the ice berg, as India has a lot more to offer and both countries can do wonders together. India is the world's 3rd largest in terms of purchasing power parity. It grew at 8.7% in 2021-22 while Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow hit an all-time high of \$83.57 billion in 2021-22, indicating a 22% increase post covid i.e., from March 2020. This was made possible through a series of measures, utmost important of which was the largest vaccination drive in the world, which successfully administered over 2 billion doses, ensuring that 90% of the adult population are fully vaccinated. This would not have been possible at such a large scale in such a short span, without indigenous vaccines. A production linked incentive scheme announced by India for 13 priority sectors in April 2020, started bearing its fruits as currently India is one of the fastest growing mobile manufacturers in the world and second largest volume wise. India has one of the largest networks of higher education institutions in the world, which was estimated to be worth US\$ 117 billion in 2020-21 and is expected to reach US\$ 225 billion by 2025-26.

At the same time, it is not a secret that even after 75 years of independence and tremendous achievements in various fields, the rural-urban divide across various sectors still remains huge. Yet, New India sees this as an opportunity for improving and aims to bridge this divide during the *Amrit Kaal*. Already, a series of measures were put in place to double the income of farmers and widen their financial security net; expand agriculture production and promote agri-exports and provision of roads and electricity to villages. This is a great opportunity for bilateral cooperation which serves the mutual interests — food security to Qatar and investments to India. A related field to food and agri-industry, is the shipping and ports development one, again which can be a potential area for mutual collaboration. India allows up to 100% FDI under the automatic route for projects related to the construction and maintenance of ports and harbors. In the last two decades, Indian ports have attracted a cumulative FDI amounting to US\$1.64 billion. At the Maritime India Summit in March 2021, in which Qatar also participated, India announced 400 new projects in the sector with an investment potential of \$28 billion for the development of the country's coastline.

Going further, New India is aiming at a whole lot of new forward looking goals including — environmental security which pushed it to take on ambitious goal of achieving 450 GW by 2030 of which around 100 GW has been achieved ahead of schedule. A Green Hydrogen policy was unveiled in February this year aiming to bring down the production cost from \$5-\$6 per kg to \$1 per kg. India's electric vehicle industry too is gathering momentum and offers ample opportunities for investors. India's emphasis on Mission Circular Economy focusing on regeneration and restoration will eventually pave the way for sustainable economic and environmental ecosystems. These are also potential areas of bilateral cooperation between India and Qatar wherein both can jointly make new strides for the betterment of the region as well as the world at large.

The Indian diaspora has been one of the important pillars of India's development for the past 75 years and will remain so during the *Amrit Kaal* and beyond. I sincerely appreciate the Indian community in Qatar for their contribution to both their mother land, India as well as to their second home, Qatar. The enthusiasm with which it has been celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* is highly commendable. The Indian Embassy leaves no stone unturned to improve the quality of its service to the community. It strives to reach out to every Indian be it through regular consular/labour camps, monthly open house or through various community organisations. To be available at a click away, a mobile app (India in Qatar) was launched last year. Through the app, currently appointments can be booked, grievances raised, assistance solicited and remain in touch with Embassy easily. Embassy also has a call centre — Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayta Kendra (PBSK) running from 8 am — 5 pm every day (except Friday) and is available in English, Hindi and Malayalam languages. A live chat option is also available on Embassy's website.

We all are looking forward to the spectacular FIFA World Cup 2022 to be held in Qatar. I am very happy that a large number of Indians have registered as Volunteers and cultural events are planned in run up to the mega event. The 100 days' countdown to the games has begun. I take this opportunity to appeal to the Indian resident community to extend full support for the successful and memorable conduct of the games by Qatar.

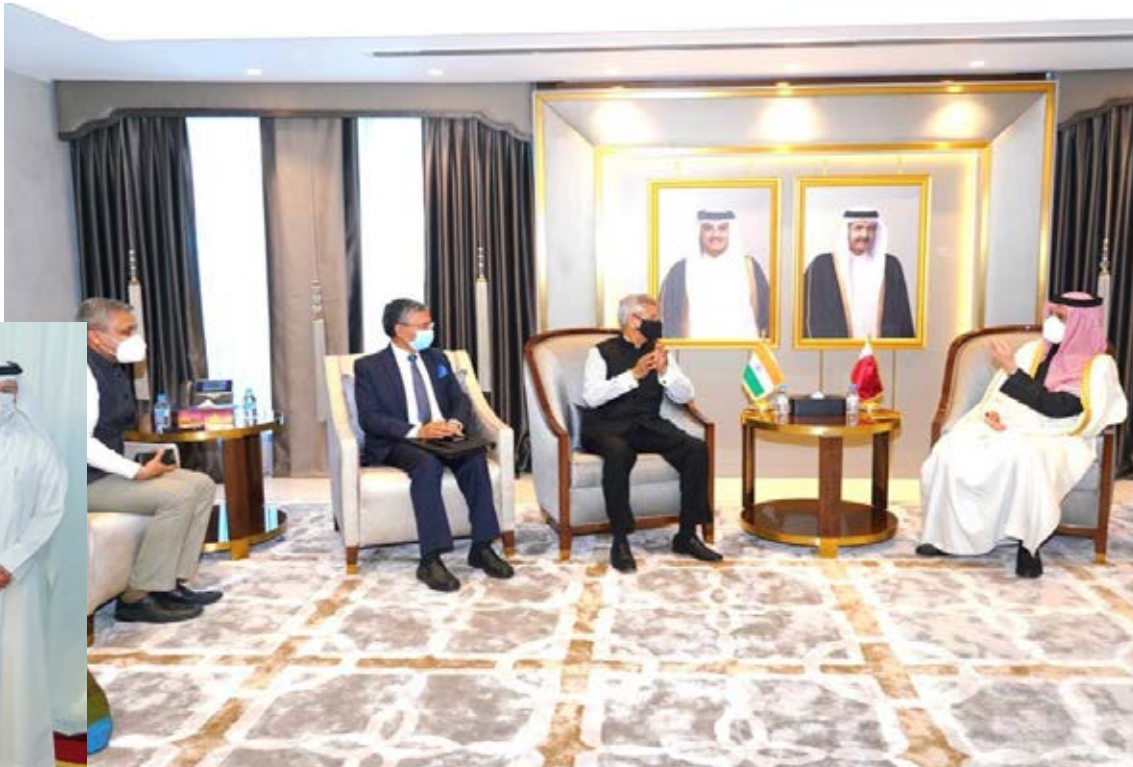
I once again extend my warm greetings to my fellow Indians in Qatar as India steps into a new phase, and thank them for their valuable contribution to the growth and development of Qatar and India. Let us all rededicate ourselves for New India that shares the fruits of development with all and achieve in the words of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - *Sankalp Bharat, Sashakt Bharat, Atmanirbhar Bharat* and *Shreshtha Bharat*. At the same time let us all continue to consolidate the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Qatar.

Jai Hind !



KEY EVENTS & MEETINGS

India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar visited Doha on 9th February 2022. He held a bilateral meeting with Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. They jointly unveiled the foundation stone for the new Indian embassy chancery building located in the Diplomatic Enclave, West Bay.



Dr Deepak Mittal, Ambassador of India to Qatar, called on HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Sultan bin Rashid al-Khater. They discussed expanding bilateral trade and economic relations. Accompanying Chairman, Board of Governors and President of IBPC briefed about their role to foster new partnerships.



The biennial Multilateral Naval Exercise, MILAN 2022, was held at Visakhapatnam from 25-28 February 2022. Qatar Amiri Naval Force took part in this exercise as observers.



KEY EVENTS & MEETINGS

Indian community in Qatar held reception for Megastar Padma Shri Bharat Mammooty at Indian Cultural Centre, Doha – Qatar. Ambassador of India Dr Deepak Mittal felicitated the heartthrob of Malayalam Indian Cinema who has a widespread fan following in Qatar.



Ambassador of India Dr Deepak Mittal met with Majid Mohammed Hassan Abdullah Al Ansari, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Both exchanged views on bilateral relations, media cooperation and ways to further strengthen the same.



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Dr Deepak Mittal called on Minister of Municipality HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie and exchanged views on agriculture, urban planning, fisheries, etc.



Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command, called on HE Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al-Thani, and reviewed existing bilateral cooperation and means to further strengthen it.



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Indian Naval Ship Kolkata took part in DIMDEX 2022, Qatar. Head of the Indian delegation Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command, hosted a reception on board the ship at Hamad Port on behalf of the Indian delegation.



Foreign Secretary of India Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla inaugurated 'Passage to India' festival by Indian Cultural Centre, Doha, at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park amidst a huge participation from friends in Qatar, diplomatic, Indian and other expatriate communities in Qatar.



A proud and historic moment for Indian Community and Qatar as they make it to Guinness World Record after Indian Sports Centre successfully conducted a yoga lesson for 114 nationalities at the Aspire Zone.








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 MY INDIA MY PRIDE. MAY THE GLORY OF
 INDEPENDENCE DAY BE WITH US FOREVER."
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Dr Deepak Mittal spoke to students at Qatar University's Gulf Study Centre about India-GCC relations with a focus on Qatar. He emphasized the transforming relationship between India and Qatar, which is a result of a strong historical bond between the two.



India-Qatar Joint Working Group in the field of employment held its seventh meeting on May 4-5 in the Indian capital, New Delhi.



Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of India V Muraleedharan met with Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs HE Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi during his visit to Qatar.



Ambassador of India to Qatar, Dr. Deepak Mittal, visited the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum at the invitation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Qatar and had a guided tour of the Museum. The Museum is quite a unique one truly offering an educative and interactive journey documenting the significance of sports. It's great to see sections devoted to legendary Indian athletes such as Sachin Tendulkar, Major Dhyan Chand, and Mary Kom.



Ambassador Dr Deepak Mittal called on Qatar's Minister of Commerce & Industry HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad bin Qassim al-Thani. They discussed measures to strengthen economic partnership between the two countries.



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al-Thani received the (former) Vice President of the Republic of India Venkaiah Naidu at the Amiri Diwan on the occasion of his visit to the country. Both sides held delegation level talks & reviewed bilateral relations including trade, investment, economic & security cooperation.



india

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75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and the people of Qatar on the occasion of Eid-Al-Adha.

PM Narendra Modi sent greetings to the Amir of the State of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and the friendly people of Qatar on the occasion of Eid Al Adha.

The festival, which is observed by over 200 million Indians of Islamic faith, spreads the universal message of love, sacrifice, piety and forgiveness.

PM also conveyed that India highly values H.H.'s personal support in deepening the scope of the India-Qatar bilateral relationship.


Ambedkar Jayanti 2022

ICC Students Forum Doha celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti 2022 by commemorating Dr Ambedkar's life and works. Students remembered his contributions to social reform & formulation of Indian Constitution as Head of Drafting Committee. A documentary about his life journey was also displayed.




Iftar Meet

Dignitaries from various walks of life attended an Iftar meet hosted by the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) management committee.





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Indian Community hosted reception in honour of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu.




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Amrit Mahotsav

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International Yoga Day 2022



All app-based cabs in Delhi to completely switch to EVs

The Delhi government's draft aggregator policy mandates transition to an all-electric fleet for cab companies, food delivery firms and e-commerce entities by April 1, 2030

By 2030, every app-based cab that you book in Delhi, every two-wheeler, on which the food that you ordered arrives, or any vehicle that ferries your e-orders will be an electric vehicle. Delhi government's soon-to-be-notified aggregator scheme will also put cap surge pricing, ensure cabs are monitored 24X7 and riders are alerted the moment a driver veers from the assigned route. The scheme will also make training and monitoring of drivers with less than a 3.5-rating over a year mandatory.

Delhi government recently put the Draft Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregators Scheme, 2022, in the public domain for 21 days and invited suggestions or objections from the public. The scheme is meant for licensing and regulation of aggregators providing passenger transport services and for regulation of other aggregators providing delivery of goods in the city. The government had earlier published a draft of the scheme in February and having solicited suggestions, incorporated them in the final draft put in the public domain.

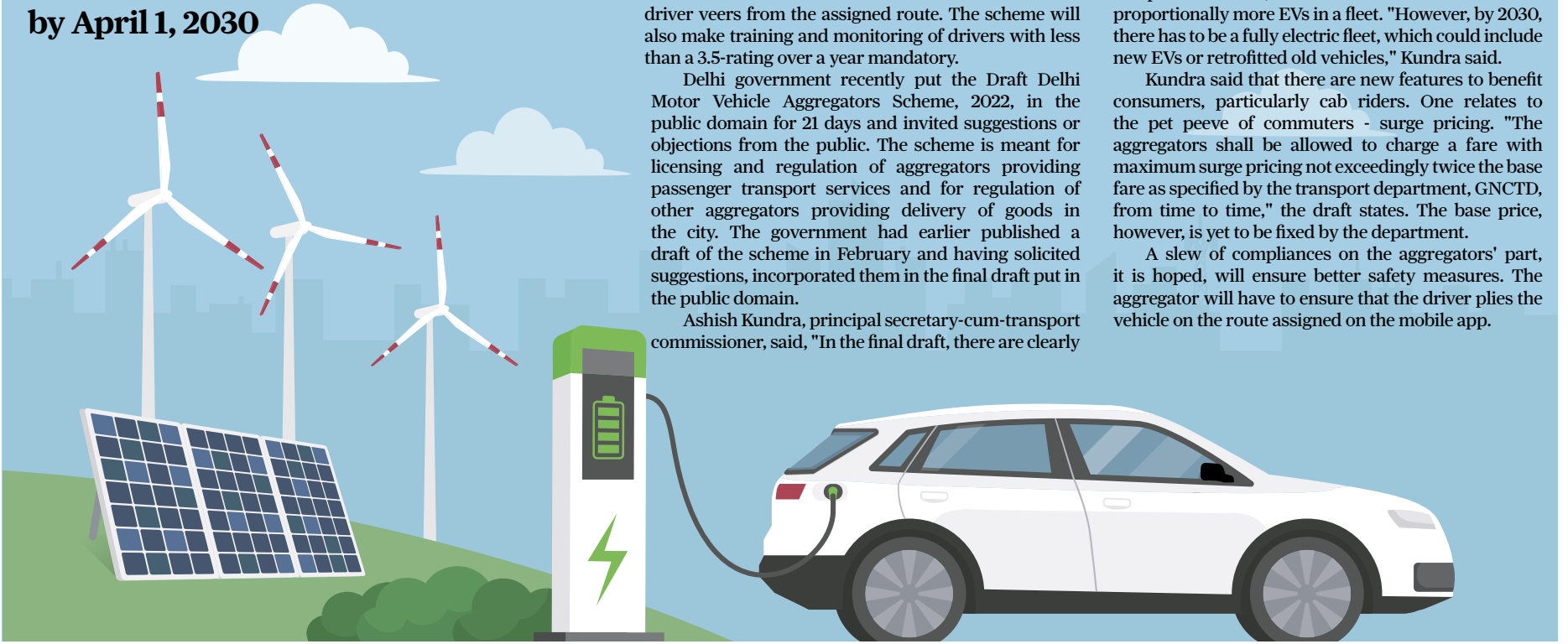
Ashish Kundra, principal secretary-cum-transport commissioner, said, "In the final draft, there are clearly

defined boxes of different obligations of EV conversion for passenger-carrying fleets, last-mile delivery fleets and e-commerce companies. With different obligations, we have tried to make the transition to EV gentler."

Instead of similar slabs for all categories in the previous draft, there are more slabs now with proportionally more EVs in a fleet. "However, by 2030, there has to be a fully electric fleet, which could include new EVs or retrofitted old vehicles," Kundra said.

Kundra said that there are new features to benefit consumers, particularly cab riders. One relates to the pet peeve of commuters - surge pricing. "The aggregators shall be allowed to charge a fare with maximum surge pricing not exceeding twice the base fare as specified by the transport department, GNCTD, from time to time," the draft states. The base price, however, is yet to be fixed by the department.

A slew of compliances on the aggregators' part, it is hoped, will ensure better safety measures. The aggregator will have to ensure that the driver plies the vehicle on the route assigned on the mobile app.



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75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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Shimmering Shimla

What was once the 'summer capital of British India' has now turned into a tourist-satisfying-hill-station in the north of the country! Shimla is the shimmering capital of the beautiful Himachal Pradesh which is by far the best tourist place in the country. The city/hill station has seen almost everything from being the summer capital to the British India to being the most favoured hill station in the country.

But what works for this majestic and historic hill station is the location of it. About 2 hour drive from Chandigarh and 6 hour drive from New Delhi sits this amazing place to explore. Here are a few reason that why you must not miss this destination:

The Mall – Or popularly known as the Mall Road is the main street or the central point of the city which has always managed to attract tourists visiting this hill station.

The temperature – Shimla has always been bordering away from the blistering heat of the rest of the country. Sitting at the knee of Himalayas, the place is relatively cool than the plains and is one of the biggest reasons why tourists from major north Indian cities head towards Shimla on almost every other weekend.

Train ride between Kalka and Shimla – Just a mere 6 hour journey in-between the beautiful mountains of Shivalik connecting the Shimla to the isolated Kalka hill station is one journey that would etch beautiful memories of a lifetime in your heart. The ride that covers 107 tunnels and bridges is an experience where words will fail to explain the pleasure of the ride.

The Food – North Indians love their over-the-top heavy doses of eating out. And Shimla has managed to fulfill their taste buds as this hill station has almost everything to offer. From lip-smacking Indian curries to continental delicacies to influential oriental cuisines, this place would not disappoint the foodie in you.

Shopper's paradise – Be it the snuggling woolen winter wear or the decorative wooden handcrafted pieces or the local street clothes, the city has everything for every kind of shopper. The famous Lakkar Bazaar is where you get good wooden articles and once done with shopping, tourists can dunk on the famous Sita Ram's Chole Bhature.

If by any chance you have a day in hand and you somehow managed to wear out all the activities in Shimla, two villages namely **Chail** and **Mashobra** are 60 kms and 14 kms within the reach. The quiet serenity of the hills will make you want to move to this place for good.

The Heritage Walks – Shimla is a hill station which is best explored on foot. The city has barred the entry of cars in the central part so anyhow you have to take a walk which makes the city's heritage sights amazing.

Viceregal Lodge or Rashtrapati Niwas on Observatory hills in Shimla is one of the heritage sights of the hill station. Built in 1888, the lodge was the residence of the British viceroy of India. One of the best places if you're an architectural nerd.

All the above-mentioned points multiply into innumerable folds when it snows in Shimla. The city somehow becomes calm, cold, and scenically beautiful. It would be a miss for every travellers if they don't make it when it snows in Shimla.





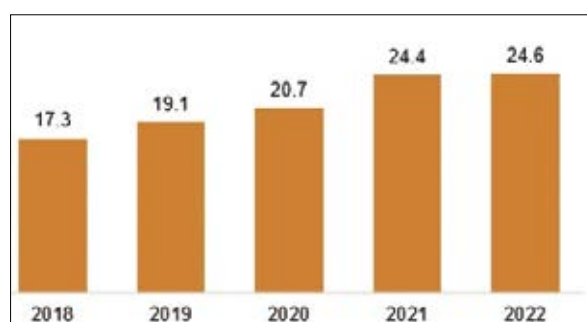
India's pharma exports making a global mark

The Indian pharma sector has a long history of developing and delivering world-class products at affordable costs across the globe. India is regarded as the 'pharmacy of the world' and ranked third-largest in pharma production by volume and 14th largest by value. India has the most number of United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) approved units (741 as of August 2021). Indian pharma companies offer products in segments such as generic drugs, Over-the-Counter (OTC) medicines, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), vaccines, contract research and manufacturing, and biosimilar and biologics. India is the largest provider of generics globally, accounting for over 20% of the global generic supply by volume and 60% of vaccines. Indian pharma products are exported to over 200 countries; the country meets more than 40% of generic demand in the US and 25% of prescription drugs in the UK.

Overview of Indian Pharma Export

For the period 2021-22, export of drugs and pharma products stood at US\$ 24.6 billion compared to US\$ 24.44 billion as of 2020-21. The Indian pharma industry witnessed exponential growth of 103% during 2014-22 from US\$ 11.6 billion to US\$ 24.6 billion. Pharma exports reported strong growth despite the pandemic-led global supply disruptions and geopolitical concerns during the last couple of years.

Value of Indian Pharma Exports (in US\$ Billion)



Over the last five years, the value of pharma export has increased at a CAGR of 7% from US\$ 17.3 billion in 2018 to US\$ 24.6 billion in 2022. Intense price competitiveness and good quality services have helped pharma companies dominate the export market.

Source: Statista

Category-wise Export Trend

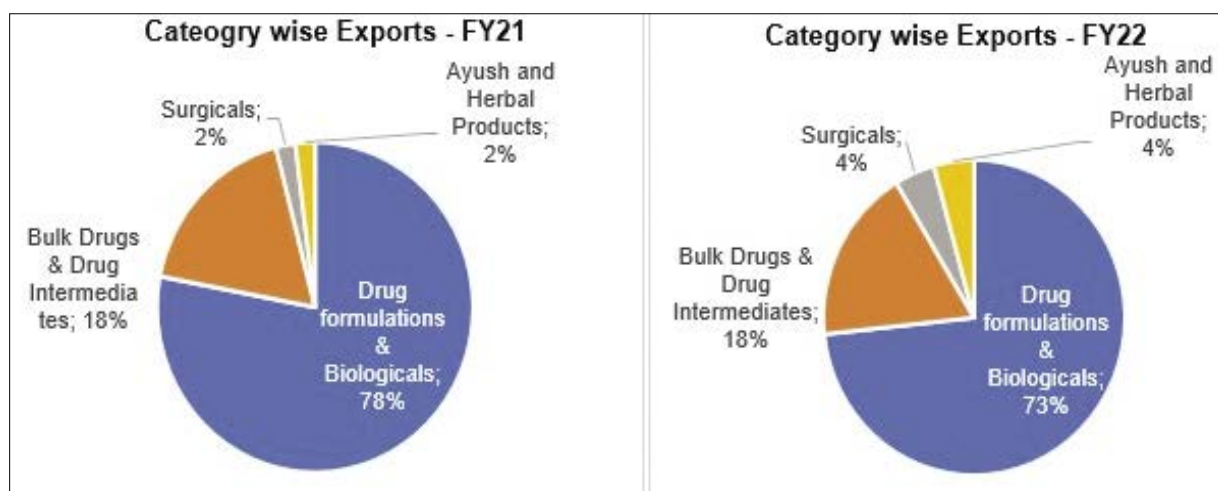
Out of the total exports of US\$ 24.6 billion, drug formulation and biologicals (drug formulation: different chemical substances such as active ingredients are combined to produce a final medical product; biologicals: pharmaceutical products manufactured from living organisms) accounts for US\$ 18 billion of exports. Over the last couple of years, drug formulation and biologicals increased from 74% of exports in 2019 to 78% in 2021, driven by vaccine and drug exports during the pandemic. India has been exporting vaccines and essential generic drugs to around 71 countries during the crisis.

Source: RBI Bulletin

India's Edge Over Other Markets

Indian pharma companies have always set examples by delivering life supporting medicines at affordable rates across the globe. Emerging markets have been becoming popular in pharma exports compared to developed markets over the last few years. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the current market size of the Indian pharma industry is US\$ 50 billion. These pharma companies have an edge over their developed and emerging market peers due to:

- Availability of solid infrastructure facilities recognised by USFDA and WHO standards
- Inexpensive labour and lower production cost - Drug production cost lower by 40-70% and labor costs on an average less than 60-70% as compared to developed nations.
- Lower R&D cost
- Strong government support



Major Pharma Companies in India

India is home to nearly 3,000 pharma companies, seven of which are included in the list of top 100 pharma companies in the world by revenue. Sun Pharma is the largest pharma company in India by revenue, followed by Aurobindo Pharma, Cipla, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Lupin. Top 10 pharma company revenue accounts for US\$ 16.2 billion based on FY21 and FY22 revenue.

*Revenue as of 2021

Sr No	Company	Global Ranking (Based on Revenue - Top 100)	FY22 Revenue (in US\$ Bn)
1	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	44	4.32*
2	Aurobindo Pharma Ltd	58	3.2
3	Cipla Ltd	63	2.81
4	Dr. Reddy's Laboratories	66	2.78
5	Lupin Ltd	60	2.12
6	Zydus Lifesciences	74	1.97
7	Divi's Laboratories	-	1.16
8	Torrent Pharma	-	1.1
9	Biocon Ltd	-	1.06
10	Glenmark	94	0.98*

Source: Company filings

Activities Undertaken for Export Promotion

Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) acts as a nodal agency for export promotion in the country. Significant activities that have been undertaken for export promotion include:

- Brand India Pharma Project: The project was launched in 2012 to promote Indian pharma products in international markets by using Made in India logos and highlighting the sector as a preferred destination. Phamexcil has entered into agreements

with countries such as South Korea, China, the Philippines and Ukraine to promote bilateral trade.

- Reducing dependency on imports of APIs: India is heavily dependent on API imports to meet domestic manufacturing and formulation requirements. As of FY21, India's API import stood at US\$ 3.68 billion. The government has launched schemes for setting up three bulk drug parks, medical device parks and offered product linked incentives (PLI) to manufacture APIs in the country.
- Authentication system for pharma exports: To reduce fake and substandard pharma formulation, a track and trace system has been developed since 2011. Barcoding at secondary and tertiary level packaging has been adopted. In June 2020, the beta version of a technology-neutral and user-friendly web portal, iVEDA, was launched.
- Support to the industry: The Department of Commerce offers reimbursement of the registration cost for product registration abroad up to US\$ 0.26 million per year in order to encourage more product registrations in new markets.
- Global outreach and B2B engagements: Pharmexcil and the Department of Commerce organise trade fairs webinars and exhibitions across the globe to promote exports.

Pharma Exports Poised to Grow in Future

India has made its mark in the global generic market by delivering quality products at scale. Growth in exports has been achieved, primarily due to consistent innovation over the last 5-6 decades. The share of pharma and drugs in India's global exports was 5.92% as of 2022. India also has the potential to become a net API exporter with government support, as private players can establish API plants and export them to nations dependent on imports. According to the Indian Economic Survey 2020-21, the pharma industry is expected to reach US\$ 64 billion in value by 2024 and US\$ 130 billion by 2030. The next leg of growth in pharma, both domestic and exports, will come from advancement in skill development, use of technology in manufacturing and establishment of a solid supply chain.

The Statue of Unity

It's huge, almost gigantic! That is the first reaction most people have as they speed down the winding road leading to the towering Statue of Unity (SoU). A long bridge connects the mainland to the Sadhu Bet Island, on which the statue stands. Silhouetted against the surrounding Vindhya and Satpura mountain ranges, the colossal statue almost seems to pierce the skyline.

The legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's Iron Man, lives on in the form of this massive statue dominating the Narmada river basin.

He towers over the landscape, as if, keeping an eye over the land he helped become independent. Standing at a height of 182m, the Statue of Unity, is the tallest in the world. It depicts Sardar Patel in a walking pose, clad in his characteristic simple attire. About 100

times the height of a five-and-a-half-ft-tall person, one can see the statue from as far away as 8km. The SoU was inaugurated on October 31, 2018, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate Patel's 143rd birth anniversary.

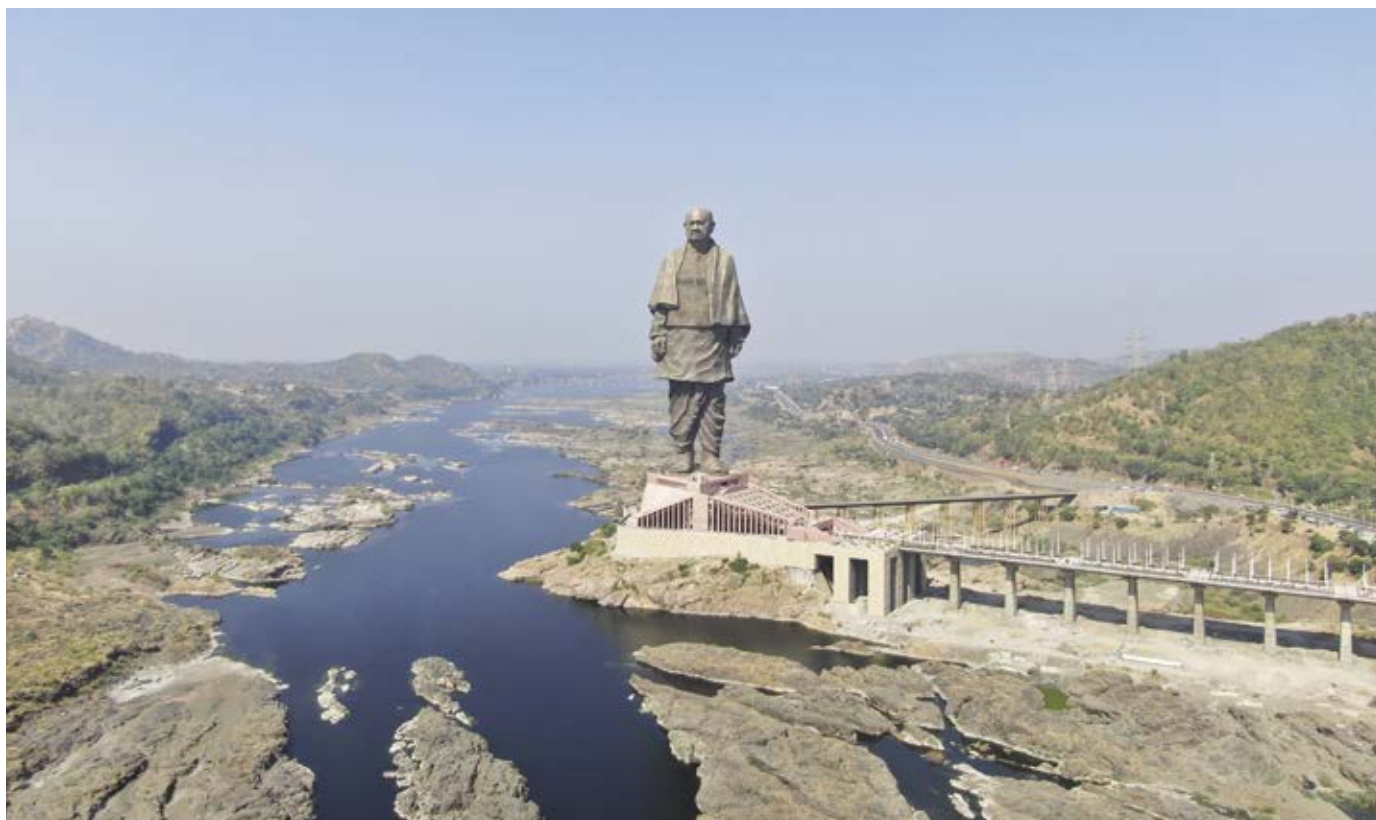
The statue has been built on a star-shaped geometric base that covers the entire Sadhu Hill. It has a viewing gallery at 135m, at the statue's chest level, that can be reached via two high-speed elevators. The gateway to the elevators is

through an exhibition gallery, in which you can marvel at a model of the statue and an elaborate blueprint, among other exhibits.

The elevators travel 150m in half a minute and can carry 26 people at one time. From the viewing gallery, reinforced with steel grids, you can take in the breathtaking views of the surroundings and of the Sardar Sarovar reservoir at a distance. Interestingly, it's not just the statue that throws light on Patel's life and achievements, but also a spectacular laser show, which talks in detail about the statesman's life. It traces the life of Patel and talks about why the statue has been erected in his honour. The show also outlines the leader's contribution to the nation. However, what really fascinates are the realistic projections that show Patel in different phases of his life: in a lawyer's garb, images from his 'Bharat Chodo' movement (asking the British to leave India) and in his characteristic kurta pajama.

Constructed by engineering giant Larsen and Toubro, SoU was built in a record time of 33 months. It is 177 ft taller than China's Spring Temple Buddha statue (the second tallest in the world), which took 11 years to build. The SoU comprises two semi-joined, composite concrete cylindrical cores surrounded by a steel space frame to support the external cladding.

The face of the statue is particularly noteworthy and 93-year-old sculptor Ram Sutar has made it to have a poised countenance. Patel's head is held high with his arms at his side, and the leader is supposed to appear to be walking on water towards the Sardar Sarovar Dam, with his left leg placed slightly forward. It is said that figuring out the perfect posture for the statue was a challenge. The engineers scanned around 2,000 photographs, and consulted several historians to choose the final picture. Finally, a 2-dimensional image was converted into a 3-dimensional model.



Kashmiri youth sets new world record for handwritten Quran on 500-metre scroll

Mustafa-Ibn-Jameel, a 27-year old Kashmiri calligrapher, has broken the world record by writing the Quran on a 500-metre scroll.

"It's a dream come true, now I'm translating holy Quran in my local 'Sheena' language," said Mustafa Jamil.

A calligrapher from the remote area of North Kashmir's Gurez area has made it to the Lincoln Book of World Records. Mustafa-ibn-Jamil wrote the Islamic Holy book 'Quran' on 500 meters of scroll paper in 7 months. The Lincoln Book of Records mentioned on its official website, "New world record for the first time in the world to write the Holy Quran on a 14.5inch and 500-meter white scroll paper."

Jamil picked up calligraphy to improve his handwriting and in the year 2017 he first started writing verses from the Holy Quran, later he decided to write the whole Quran in his calligraphy. Jamil first wrote a Quran in the year 2018, which weighed 21kgs and was completed in 11 months. And in December 2021, he started working on the 500-metre scroll and completed it in 7 months.

"I started in the year 2016, I wanted to improve my handwriting and when I saw that I could write calligraphy, I started writing the holy Book Quran. In 2018 I wrote a Quran which weighed 21 Kgs. In 2021, I thought of writing the longest Quran. And I think it was God's wish that I was able to write the Quran. It took me 7 months to complete the whole Quran. It was accepted by the Lincoln Book of World records; I had applied with many other record making organisations. I had less budget so couldn't do it at a much bigger level," said Mustafa-ibn-Jamil, a calligrapher.

For this project, Jamil had to move to New Delhi, as the scroll paper was not available in the Kashmir Valley. He said that he couldn't have brought the raw material to Kashmir as it was too heavy to be carried from Delhi to Srinagar. It took him two months to arrange the whole material, he worked 18 hours every day to finish the 500 metre scroll in 7 months.

"I used a special paper called 135 GSM, there are various types of papers on which we can write. The paper was not available in the valley in the roll form, so I went to Delhi, and I had to complete the whole project there. I couldn't have come

with so much stuff to the valley. The pen also is different from what I have used for the writing of the Quran. The ink which we use is also special," said Mustafa-ibn-Jamil.

The total cost of the project was about 2.5 lakh rupees. It

took Jamil a month to laminate the whole 500 metre scroll.

Jamil has also registered for the Asian Book of Records, Indian Book of Records and International Book of Records for which documentation is under process.



India complete 200 Commonwealth Games gold medals, becomes only 4th nation to achieve feat

India completed a record haul of 200 gold medals at Commonwealth Games by the virtue of badminton star PV Sindhu's win in the women's singles final. India became only the 4th nation to achieve the record after Australia, England and Canada.

Indian contingent capped off a successful Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign with 61 medals in Birmingham. Out of 61, Indian athletes won 22 gold medals and thereby achieved a massive milestone. Coming into the Birmingham games, India had won 181 gold medals in CWG history and were standing on 199 before the start of the final day.

PV Sindhu clinched the women's singles gold in badminton after beating Canada's Michelle Li and helped her country achieve the landmark 200 gold medals in CWG. India added three more gold medals to their tally owing to Lakshya Sen's win in the men's singles badminton final, Achanta Sharath Kamal's win in men's singles table tennis and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty's win in men's doubles final in badminton.

India's tally now stands at 203, which is the fourth best in CWG history. Australia tops the list with 1003 gold medals, followed by England's 773 in the second place with Canada in third with 510. South Africa with 137 and Scotland with 132 gold medals are the other two nations to breach the three-figure mark.

Wrestling contributed the most number of gold medals for India in 2022, 6 to be exact. While weightlifters, pugilists, badminton and table tennis players contributed three each. Achanta Sharath Kamal, who took his CWG tally to 7, won all three gold medal in table tennis - in men's team, mixed doubles and men's singles.

India's 22 gold medals are their 4th joint-highest in their CWG history behind 38 in Delhi in 2010, 30 in Manchester in 2002, 26 at Gold Coast last time around and 22 in Melbourne in 2006.



How India is empowering women through policy

Smriti Irani writes: The quest for gender parity pervades every sphere of statecraft, ensuring it is not reduced to the ranks of an artificial add-on

The Indian government has catapulted the maxim of sarvajana hitaya, sarvajana sukhaya (for the good of all, for the happiness of all) into a palpable reality in the past decade. The extant essence of janhit (public interest) has been reinvented to “mainstream” gendered experiences. Gender mainstreaming has seamlessly pervaded every sphere of statecraft, ensuring it is not reduced to the ranks of an artificial add-on.



The incumbent government adopts a system-wide gendered lens to inform policy praxis. Women have been mandatorily recognised as the head of the household for the issuance of ration cards, under the auspices of The National Food Security Act, 2013. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) accord benefits — homeownership and LPG connections, respectively — to women beneficiaries. Such interventions have unequivocally fortified women's access to economic resources, elevating inter alia their social status.

Earlier schemes like the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) that inadvertently exempted women from seeking health services have been re-engineered and conclusively replaced. In its place, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) not only renders households without any adult male members eligible for the scheme, but also dismisses the off-colour cap of five beneficiaries per family that would penalise women in larger families, owing to male preference. Additionally, PM-JAY supports a substantial number of health benefits packages that are either women-centric in nature or are overwhelmingly common to both men and women. Under the aegis of the scheme, more women than men have availed of oncology services.



The first nationwide Time Use Survey was carried out in 2019 shepherded by the National Statistical Office under the stewardship of the incumbent government. The Survey has finally put a number to the unpaid, unacknowledged sweat and toil of our jananis — 7.2 hours a day, that is approximately how much the average Indian woman devotes to caregiving and domestic services against the average Indian man's 2.8 hours. The investigation of the implications and consequent policy corrections for the same has only been made possible by this Survey.

As a routine source of crucial information on nutrition, fertility, family planning, reproductive, maternal and child health and mortality, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a barometer of India's performance in securing equitable health outcomes, especially for women. The sampling strategy of NFHS-4 (2015-16) underwent a comprehensive, methodological renovation, statistically accounting for all districts in the nation, proving to be a colossal improvement over its predecessor NFHS-3's (2005-06) nationally representative sample. Sub-national and district-level representativeness has prompted prioritised, targeted interventions to address healthcare challenges.

NFHS-4 for the first time recorded gender-disaggregated cancer prevalence. NFHS-5 for the first time recorded information on whether women had ever undergone a screening test for cancer of the oral cavity, breast, and cervix. Together, NFHS-4 and 5 provide a tour d'horizon of the health of the Indian woman and serve as an incomparable mine of data.

The statistical architecture of the nation as we knew it has been

rebuilt to count women. The popular academic adage holds that “what gets counted counts”. This provides a scaffolding for resource allocation for policy-making. Recognising the same, quinquennial employment and unemployment data collected erstwhile by the National Sample Survey (NSS) were supplanted by quarterly and annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for timely gender-disaggregated labour force statistics. The PLFS now boasts of gender-disaggregated data such as Female Worker Population Ratio, Female Labour Force Participation Rate and Female Unemployment Rate.

Under the stewardship of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) initiated the collection of data on female foeticide in 2014. Such despondent data points are bitter pills to swallow

but in the spirit of quantification, the incumbent government has facilitated its collection and has swiftly acted upon its implications through the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

Quantification is a step towards resolution and rectification. The government is generating a plethora of gender-disaggregated data through either implementation-related statistics or through surveys and using them to inform or reform schemes, thus perpetuating a virtuous cycle. It is now the onus of individuals and groups in academia, research and evaluation consultancies to conduct audits and third-party assessments of such data to further mainstream gender in public policy for janhit.

The writer is Union Minister for Women and Child Development

www.nobleqatar.com

15th
August

76th



Where the world has not been broken up
into fragments by narrow domestic walls...
Where words come out from the depth of truth...
Into that heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country awake.

- RABINDRANATH TAGORE, GITANJALI -



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68th National Film Awards

Tamil film "Soorarai Pottru" won the National Award for Best Feature, Best Actor and Best Actress at the 68th National Film Awards for 2020 announced recently. The second big winner of the day was Ajay Devgn-starrer "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior" which bagged the awards for Best Actor for Devgn and Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. Directed by Om Raut, "Tanhaji..." is based on the life of Tanaji Malusare, the military leader of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's army. Set in the 17th century, the film also won the Best Costume Designer for Nachiket Barve and Mahesh Sherla. Devgn shared the Best Actor award with Suriya, who got it for "Soorarai Pottru". The film, inspired by the life of Air Deccan founder Capt G R Gopinath, also won Aparna Balamurali the Best Actress prize. The Bollywood star, who previously won the National Film Award for Best Actor for his performances in "Zakhm" (1998) and "The Legend of Bhagat Singh" (2002), said he was elated to receive the honour for the third time.

"I'm elated to win the Best Actor Award for 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior' at the 68th National Awards along with Suriya who won for 'Soorarai Pottru'. I thank everyone, most of all my creative team, the audience and my fans. I also express my gratitude to my parents & the Almighty for their blessings. Congratulations to all the other winners," Devgn said in a statement.

Raut, who made his directorial debut with "Tanhaji", called the film a "labour of love" and congratulated Devgn as well as costume designers Barve and Sherla on their wins. "A film is not a one man show, it is the effort of its entire team, the cast and crew are the pillars of each project. This award is for each person who worked on 'Tanhaji', they are all my unsung heroes. I'm happy our film got commercial success and true appreciation. Awards and rewards are truly heartening," the director said in a statement.

"Soorarai Pottru" also won Best Screenplay for Shalini Usha Nair and director Sudha Kongara as well as Best Music Direction (Background Score) for GV Prakash Kumar. Kongara celebrated the film's win in a post on Twitter. "We won maara", the filmmaker wrote alongside two photos with her team. The late Malayalam filmmaker Sachidanandan KR was posthumously named Best Director for "Ayyappanum Koshiyum", which took home three more awards - Best Supporting Actor for Biju Menon, Best Action Direction (Stunt Choreography) and Best Playback Female Singer for Nanchamma. The Best Playback Singer Male was given to Rahul Deshpande for Marathi film "Mi Vasantrao". Tamil artiste Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli was named the Best Supporting Actress for her performance in Tamil movie "Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengallum", which received the Best Editing award for Sreekar Prasad as well.

The Best Hindi Film prize went to "Toolsidas Junior", directed by Mridul Toolsidas. The Ashutosh Gowariker production, which was the last film appearance of late actor Rajiv Kapoor, also received a Special Jury Mention for child actor Varun Buddhadev. In the music category, Thaman S won the Best Music Direction (Songs) for Allu Arjun's Telugu hit "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo", while Best Lyrics was given to Manoj Muntashir for Hindi film "Saina". In a tweet, Thaman S thanked the film's producers for the making the movie's "music a big one for all of us and trusting us immensely".

Telugu movie "Natyam" won awards for Best Make-up Artist (TV Rambabu) and Best Choreography (Sandhya Raju). Filmmaker Madonne Ashwin won the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut film of a Director for his Tamil venture "Mandela". He won another award - the Best Dialogue writer. The Best Cinematography award went to Supratim Bhol for the Bengali movie "Avijatrik".

The Best Telugu Film award was bagged by "Colour Photo", while "Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengallum" won the Best Tamil Film. "Thinkalazcha Nishchayam" was declared the Best Malayalam Film and "Dollu" took home the Best Kannada Film award. Marathi movie "Sumi" won the Best Children's Film award and its actors Akanksha Pingle and Divyesh Indulkar shared the Best Child Artist honour with Anish Mangesh Gosavi of "Tak-Tak". Another Marathi feature "Funeral" was declared the Best Film of Social Issues, while Kannada movie "Taledanda" won the award for Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation.

The winners for the 68th National Film Awards were selected by the 10-member jury headed by Hindi filmmaker Vipul Shah. The awards were announced by jury member Dharam Gulati. In the Non-Feature category, Sachin Dheeraj Mundigonda of "Testimony of Anna" won the top award of the Best Non-Feature Film. Director-composer Vishal Bhardwaj won the Best Music Direction award for the track "Mareng Toh Wahin Jaakar" from filmmaker Vinod Kapri's "1232 kms", a documentary about the migrant workers' exodus during the lockdown. Kapri said Bhardwaj and veteran lyricist Gulzar were the "soul of the film". "This film was not possible without them. If the film has a body, then Bhardwaj and Gulzar were its soul. They both were really incredible," the filmmaker, who earlier won a National Award for his 2014 documentary "Can't Take This Shit Anymore", told PTL. The prize for the Most Film Friendly state went to Madhya Pradesh, with Special Mention for Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Author Kishwar Desai's "The Longest Kiss", based on 10 years of research and 400 letters written by cinema icon Devika Rani, received the award for the Best Book on Cinema.



Substituting plastic with cloth bags

Several attempts have been made to reduce the plastic pollution in the city. Yet, often shoppers end up demanding bags from the shopkeeper as they miss bringing one from their home. But, recently, when shoppers turned up at Green Park market, they were pleasantly surprised to see the option to rent cloth bags, to carry whatever they buy at the market. This experiment called Project Vikalp, is an initiative by an NGO, Why Waste Wednesdays, and allows people to rent a bag for a small fee. The best part is there's no deadline to return, and whenever they wish to return, shoppers can give it back at the NGO's counter at a different market as well.

"We will soon start this facility in more markets in the city. People can deposit ₹20 and take the cloth bag to carry whatever they shop. And when they come back, whenever they wish to return the bag, a full refund is given to them," says Ruby Makhija, founder of the NGO, adding, "We plan to generate a QR code soon, which will contain all the information about Vikalp alongside educating people about the ill-effects of single use plastic on the environment, solutions to curb it as well as the address of existing Vikalp stalls with GPS locations for their ease. To inform the shoppers visiting the market, we have put up a banner on our store and stickers on all the shops in the market, mentioning the address of the store."

This campaign got a structure, early this year, when the NGO started work along with South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), and its volunteers got cloth bags made out of upcycled cloth. Makhija adds: "We were successful to a great extent, but the problem was translating this awareness into practice. As a consumer, I could have three cloth bags at home and wouldn't want to purchase another one. So we wanted to come up with a solution where it doesn't pinch people's pockets and they are also able to use the bag and return whenever they wish so. This is when we thought of the name and concept of Vikalp (which translates to 'option')."

Also pitching in to save the city from the ill-effects of plastic is Delhi Greens. "We have come up with 100 ways of how Delhi citizens can minimise the use of plastic," says Konsam Nirmala from the city-based non-profit organisation, adding, "What tops in this list is the need to simply stop using plastic bags, and the solution to it is to reuse cloth bags. If you can't find a cloth bag near you, write to us on our website and

we will find one and send it to you! Toothbrush is another major example of plastic pollution, and we are arranging bamboo brushes that can be used as an alternative. We are also encouraging people to use pen refills instead of changing the entire pen since that too adds to plastic usage. Through WhatsApp groups and social media, we are reaching out to the masses and encouraging them to adopt at least five of the simple ways enlisted among the 100, and help bring a change in the environment."

Also creating awareness about the need to reduce plastic usage is Dwarka-based NGO, Rise Foundation. "We are asking people to carry cloth bags with them when they go out. And we are in talks with groups that make these bags, which can be distributed through drives," says Madhukar Varshney, from the foundation. And a Gurugram-based citizens' collective, Why Waste Your Waste, has started a similar movement to reduce plastic footprint and aims to soon move beyond it. "The compost produced from the kitchen waste at our compost plant is being sold to residents. This was earlier done in plastic bags but now we have replaced them with cloth ones," informs Kavita Bansal, a core member of the group, adding, "The beautiful handmade bags were procured from an NGO that supports the underprivileged. When the residents return the cloth bags, after using the compost, they also get their refund. Soon we shall be pushing this initiative further as we have received requests from a lot of other communities, who want to take to the same thing. There are also people in our group who are distributing cloth bags, but the crises is so acute that such methods need to be re thought. There are some residents who are setting examples at individual, and even community level, by upcycling their old clothes into bags that are then used to carry vegetables, etc."

Besides this, Rise Foundation has also found a way to reuse plastic which we find at home. "We ask people to get PET bottles and fill it with MLP waste like chips, chocolate wrappers which they accumulate in their houses. They send it to our foundation then and we make eco bricks with the same. We, then, use these bricks to make benches etc. in the park. We have made two of these in the green belt in Dwarka," says Varshney.

For more information, please log on to www.whywastewednesdays.com/vikalp

DO YOU KNOW?

- Plastic Bags Less than 75 Microns are Banned
- Every Plastic Bag has to be Stamped with Micron Thickness, Name and Registration Number of the Manufacturer. If a Plastic Bag is not Stamped, it is Illegal.

क्या आपको पता है?

- 75 माइक्रोन से कम की पन्नी पर प्रतिबंध है
- हर पन्नी पर माइक्रोन की स्टैम्प होना आवश्यक है, निर्माता के नाम और रजिस्ट्रेशन नंबर के साथ। अगर माइक्रोन की स्टैम्प नहीं है तो पन्नी अवैध है।





India likely to record 827mn air passenger traffic by 2033

Indian airports are likely to record a significant rise in the number of air-passengers in the coming years. As per an assessment made by Airports Authority of India (AAI), all India total air passenger traffic is expected to increase from 341 million during 2019-2020 to around 827 million by the year 2032-33.

With the rise in the number of flyers, the government has been taking multiple steps for corresponding growth in the airport infrastructure in the Country.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country namely, Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Shivamogga in Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh,

Dholera and Hirasar (Rajkot) in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadathi (Nellore), Bhogapuram and Orvakal (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Hollongi (Itanagar) in Arunachal Pradesh.

As per the ministry, the timeline for construction of airports depends upon various factors such as land acquisition, mandatory clearances, removal of obstacles, financial closure, etc., by the respective airport developers. The responsibility of implementation of airport projects, including funding of the projects rests with the concerned airport developer and the respective state government (in case the state government is the project proponent).

However, the Greenfield Airport Projects are regularly reviewed by the government to sort out

the issues coming in the way of implementation of these projects. So far, out of total 21 Greenfield airports where 'in-principle' has been accorded, eight Greenfield airports, including Durgapur, Shirdi, Sindhudurg, Pakyong, Kannur, Kalaburagi, Orvakal and Kushinagar have been operationalised.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said that over the last eight years India's Civil Aviation industry has been completely transformed. "Under UDAN scheme, we have 425 routes aiming to go up to 1000 routes, 68 new airports aiming to touch 100 airports. In the next 4 years we are expecting 40 crore travellers through Civil Aviation in India. That day is not far when along with rail transport and road transport Civil Aviation will become the bulwark of the transportation in India," he said.

Aviation sector expected to generate 1 lakh jobs over next two years

The aviation and aeronautical manufacturing sector is likely to generate direct employment for nearly 1 lakh people by the year 2024. A parliamentary standing committee on Estimates in its report tabled in the Lok Sabha recently noted: "At present, the direct employment in the aviation and aeronautical manufacturing sector is around 2,50,000 employees which include pilots, cabin crew, engineers, technicians, airport staff, ground handling, cargo, retail, security, administrative and sales staff."

The report further said that according to the ministry of civil aviation, this is expected to increase to around 3,50,000 by 2024. In this context, the Committee has been informed that there are 35 flying training organisations in the country approved by aviation regulator DGCA. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said that over the last eight years, India's Civil Aviation industry has been completely transformed.

"Under UDAN scheme, we have 425 routes aiming to go up to 1,000 routes, 68 new airports aiming to touch 100 airports. In the next 4 years, we are expecting 40 crore travelers through Civil Aviation in India. That day is not far when along with rail transport and road transport Civil Aviation will become the bulwark of transportation in India," he said.



IT sector to add 4.5 lakh jobs, see revenue growth of 15.5%

The Indian information technology (IT) industry is expected to grow 15.5% — the highest since 2011 — to reach \$227 billion revenue in FY22, while adding about 4.5 lakh jobs during the year, according to the National Association of Software & Services Companies (Nasscom).

According to the industry body's 'Strategic Review 2022', the industry crossed the \$200-bn revenue mark during the year by adding \$30 billion incremental revenue, as all sub-sectors of the industry recorded double-digit growth.

"Fiscal 2022 has been a breakthrough year for the Indian technology industry," chairperson Rekha M. Menon said in a virtual conference.

While exports, including hardware, recorded a growth of 17.2%, clocking revenue of \$178 billion, the domestic revenue for the technology industry grew 10% to about \$50 billion.

E-commerce recorded a growth of 39% to reach \$79 billion during the year, Nasscom said, adding that the digital revenue share stood at 30-32%, recording an incremental revenue of \$13 billion in FY22.

Nasscom president Debjani Ghosh said while exports played a large part in driving revenues in FY22, the domestic market also emerged as a great propeller "owing to India's tech adoption with public digital platforms like Aadhaar, UPI and CoWIN playing a large part in delivering citizen services".

The industry likely added 4.5 lakh new jobs during the year, the highest ever, of which 44% were women.

Nasscom added that despite headwinds like geopolitics, macroeconomic fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, and the after-effects of the pandemic, the industry would continue to display grit, resilience and agility.

According to the Nasscom Tech CEO Survey 2022, more than 70% CXOs believe that FY23 is poised to be another growth year for the industry. "The current demand trends on technology spending and economic growth point to a positive outlook on technology spending and hiring. The industry has also set itself an ambitious target of \$350 billion by FY26 growing at a rate of 11-14%," it added.



India's indigenous bullet train plan on track

Indian Railways is developing its own super-fast train by increasing the speed of the locally made Vande Bharat Express in a phased way to match those running in European nations.

The railways plans to increase the speed of the new version of the Vande Bharat Express train to 180km per hour (kmph) this year from 160kmph. The train is expected to run at speeds of 220kmph by 2025 and subsequently faster at 260kmph, on par with the speed of most European high-speed trains.

Speaking at the Mint Mobility conclave, railways minister Ashwani Vaishnav said that the development of Vande Bharat trains took a leaf out of Japan's book, where bullet trains gradually increased their speed since their launch in 1959. They currently run at a speed of around 320kmph.

Vande Bharat would also increase its speed in phases and continue to improve the overall passenger experience, safety and security.

The first version of the Vande Bharat trains was launched in 2019 under the Make in India initiative and is designed to reach speeds up to 160kmph. However, this has been boosted to 180kmph in the second version, which will start operating this month, with 75 such trains deployed by 15 August next year as part of the country's 75 years of independence celebrations.

Vaishnav said that Vande Bharat versions 3 and 4 would run at speeds of about 220kmph and 260kmph, respectively.

The tender for Vande Bharat 3 is expected to be finalized by December, with the high-speed train expected to join the Indian Railways fleet by 2025.



Railways to invest 130cr to boost production of Vande Bharat trains

Racing against time to roll out 75 Vande Bharat trains by August 2023, the railways will invest Rs 130 crore on capacity enhancement of manufacturing units to increase the production of these trains. Officials said this will ensure the manufacturing of six such trains every month compared to the current capacity of four trains.

After visiting the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai recently, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav said Indian Railways is committed to making 75 Vande Bharat trains by August 2022. He added that different regions will be connected with these trains.

Meanwhile, detailed preparations have started in the railway board for identifying and setting up depots for these trains, which need special maintenance and care. Going by the identified centres, these trains are likely to be operated in regions including Lucknow, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Pune, Guwahati, Tirupati, Chennai and Bhopal.

Vaishnav also said the first two prototype second generation Vande Bharat trains are planned to be rolled out by August. Subsequently, 4-5 rakes would be rolled out every month to meet the requirement. The railways is also set to invite bids for 6,000 wheels for these trains, which will be manufactured in the next few months. The US and China are being considered as prime sources to meet the requirement. For mid and long-term requirements, the railways has roped in Steel Authority of India Ltd and the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd to manufacture wheels for these trains.

Amazon ties up with Indian Railways to boost delivery of packages

Amazon India has engaged with Indian Railways to boost its delivery services in the country. Through this partnership, the e-commerce firm said it will be able to transport packages on more than 110 inter-city routes, ensuring one to two-day delivery for its customer.

In a statement, the company said, "Amazon is one of the enablers for the company to offer 1-day and 2-day delivery promises to customers in the hinterlands of the country. It is now working with Railways in more than 110 inter-city routes".

Amazon India ferries customer packages to cities and towns such as Jharsuguda, Ratnagiri, Kurnool, Nanded, Bareilly, Bokaro, and Rudrapur among others.

7 Most Popular Festivals of India



1. Diwali- Festival of Lights

This pan Indian festival, famous for lighting up our lives, Diwali is joyously celebrated globally now. Sending a powerful message of the triumph of good over evil, the festival is celebrated in every nook and corner of the country. People enjoy the festival of lights by beginning the day with an auspicious pooja, followed by welcoming the night with new traditional clothes, sweets and glowing deeyas (a small handmade clay vessel). The houses are decorated with garlands of electric lights and colourful rangolis. Ignite the light of brotherhood and goodness in you being through the festival of Diwali.



2. Holi- Festival of Colours

The Pandora box of wholesome fun and good natured pranks characterise the atmosphere in the colourful festival of Holi. This festival is also slowly gaining popularity in the global sphere. Holi is celebrated by throwing and applying colours on each other, in myriad hues of jubilation. The festival is even played by throwing and splashing water on each other, via a friendly weaponry of water guns and water balloons. Immerse yourself in the pinks, greens and reds of Holi, and forget all your blues for this day.



3. Eid-UL-Fitr- Marks the End of Ramadan

Eid-UL-Fitr is a major festival for Muslims in India. The festival is marked by people visiting the mosque for an auspicious prayer, wearing new clothes and preparing delicacies like sewainyan to be savoured. Children are given eidi, a small token of money as a gift and relatives exchange sweets and gifts with each other. It is a festival that celebrates brotherhood among humanity.



4. Onam- Harvest Festival of Kerala

An important festival of Kerala, the festival of Onam is a very colourful affair. People celebrate by decorating their house with various floral arrangements and women wear the gorgeous white and golden border sarees. The festival is marked by Kathakali dances and theatrical plays of artists dressed as tigers and hunters.



5. Raksha Bandhan- Rakhi or “Bond of Protection”

Raksha Bandhan is a festival celebrating the eternal bond of brothers and sisters. In this festival, sisters tie an auspicious thread to the brother's wrist, as a symbol of protection, that the brother bestows on her. In return, the sister receives varieties of gifts and goodies from her brother. People dress up in fine clothes and eat traditional sweets during this festival.



6. Pongal- Tamil Harvest Festival

A harvest festival, Pongal is a popular festival in south India. The festival is celebrated in a traditional costume, through dances, bonfires and songs of celebration. People even decorate their homes with beautiful rangolis, using coloured rice and flower petals, symbolising the nurturing harvest produced by the farmers.



7. Lohri- Punjabi Folk Festival

A harvest festival of North India, Lohri is a lively festival celebrated with warmth and harmony. The festival is meant to celebrate the winter harvest in January. It is enjoyed around a warm bonfire at night, where people eat popcorns and peanuts, basking in the fire and the love for each other in this glorious festival.

The Islamic Heritage of India

From Kerala to Kashmir and from Tripura to Gujarat, India has a vast and rich heritage of Islamic architecture

India is an enchanting land watered by the streams of compassionate philosophies since ancient times. Flourishing communities of the Islamic, Christian, Zoroastrian and Jewish faiths exist here. The Hindu, Buddhist, Jaina and Sikh faiths were born here. It has a great cosmopolitan heritage of culture and art.

The best-recognised monument in the Indian subcontinent is the Taj Mahal, the tomb of Arjumand Banu Begum (also known as Mumtaz Mahal), wife of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. He was also later laid to rest here. The pearly clarity of the white marble structure acquires different hues with the changing colour of light, from sunrise to sunset.

Although Mughal architecture of north India is famous, the fascinating richness of Islamic architectural heritage in other parts of the country is not so well known. The vastness of India's Islamic architectural heritage is unbelievable. India has more beautiful medieval Islamic architectural heritage than any other country. This is a fact which neither Indians nor the rest of the world is fully aware of.

QUTB MINAR, DELHI, early 13th century. In 1206, Mohammed Ghori was assassinated and his realm was divided among his slaves. One of them, Qutbuddin Aibak, assumed control over Delhi. He built the Qutb Minar near the Quwwat-ul-Islam ("might of Islam") mosque. One of the world's tallest minarets, it is 72.5 metres high.



It is a known fact that the most famous Islamic monument of the world, the Taj Mahal, is in India. But what is not equally well known is that one of the oldest mosques in the world is also in India, in Kerala. In fact, India has a vast and rich Islamic architectural heritage, from Kerala in the south to Kashmir in the north, from Tripura in the east to Gujarat in the west.

AGRA FORT, UTTAR Pradesh, 16th-17th century. Akbar, one of the greatest Mughal emperors (reign 1556-1605), was a brilliant intellectual and ruler. A remarkable monarch whose empire rivalled that of Asoka, he built a network of fortresses and palaces between 1565 and 1571. The first of these was the fort at Agra. His successors Jahangir and Shah Jahan added many sections within the fort. Here is a part of the white marble section of Agra Fort, which was built during the reign of Shah Jahan.

Islamic architecture is characterised by a few visible symbols. One is the arch, which frames the space; the second symbol is the dome, which looms over the skyline; and the third is the



minaret, which pierces the skies. Minarets were actually symbols in the middle of deserts. They represented fire, which was lit atop them to guide travellers. The dome represents the infinite and also the sky. As tomb architecture represents both the finite and the infinite, the dome has a very important role to play.

GATEWAY OF AKBAR'S Tomb, Sikandra, near Agra, Uttar Pradesh, 17th century. The impressive structure was built by his son Jahangir, who closely supervised the work, which was completed in 1613. Akbar did not impose his faith on his subjects. He forged matrimonial ties with Rajput rulers. Some of his closest confidants and advisers followed faiths other than his own.



Islam did not come to India from the north as is commonly believed. It came through Arab traders to the Malabar region in Kerala, and Muslims flourished as a trading community there. You can still see traces of that community amongst the Moplas of Kerala, who trace their ancestry to the Arabs.

ZIARAT OF SHAH Hamadan, Srinagar, Kashmir. In the mountainous kingdom of Kashmir, Islamic architecture was heavily influenced by ancient Hindu and Buddhist stone architecture. Wood was used extensively in the mosques and tombs of the Kashmir Valley. Shah Hamadan from Persia is known to have laid the foundations of Islam in the Kashmir Valley. The saint is deeply revered by the people. Built on the bank of the river Jhelum in Srinagar, the ziarat is a beautiful example of Kashmiri wooden architecture. It is in the ziarats of the saints of Kashmir that the people of the valley worship. Over the centuries, both Hindus and Muslims have equally revered the ziarats.



Since ancient times, India has had considerable trade contact with the Arab world. In the 1st century A.D., the Roman historian Pliny the Elder wrote about the existing routes to India and the July monsoon winds that traders used to catch to reach the Indian coast. He spoke about a ship that left the coast of Arabia and took 40 days to reach Muziris, which was then the name of present-day Kodungalloor.



GOL GUMBAZ, BIJAPUR, Karnataka, 17th century. The Gol Gumbaz, literally meaning "Round Dome", is one of the most impressive monuments in India. Built during the reign of Muhammad Adil Shah in the mid-17th century, it is the mausoleum of the ruler. It is one of the largest domes ever made in the world.

With the advent of Islam, Arab traders became the carriers of the new faith. The first mosque in India was built at Kodungalloor by the Chera King Cheraman Perumal in A.D. 629, within the lifetime of the Prophet. This is one of the oldest mosques in the world.

TOMB OF SHER Shah Suri, Sasaram, Bihar, 16th century. Sher Shah Suri (1486-1545) defeated the Mughal emperor Humayun in 1537 and created an empire. Even though he reigned only for five years, he laid the foundations of an Indian empire for later Mughal emperors. His lasting legacy is the Grand Trunk Road that he laid from Sonagarh in Bangladesh to Peshawar in Pakistan. Of Afghan origin, Sher Shah was born in Sasaram. His tomb is situated at the centre of an artificial lake. The location of the tomb in the middle of the water is a reference to Paradise with its plentiful waters, as described in the Quran.



Kayalpattanam is an ancient town about a kilometre from the mouth of the Tamiraparani river. Arab traders built the Kodiakarai Mosque here as early as Hijri 12, or A.D. 633. It is the first mosque to be built in Tamil Nadu and ranks among the oldest mosques in the world. Kayalpattanam has many other early mosques. In fact, Kerala on the west coast of India and Tamil Nadu on the east coast have numerous mosques, made through the ages. At Nagore, on the east coast, is one of the grandest dargahs ever made.

HUMAYUN'S TOMB, DELHI. It was built in the 16th century by Haji Begum, the emperor's eldest widow. It is closely related to the previous architecture of Delhi, of the 14th and 15th centuries. Islam came to the north of India through different invasions,



starting with the invasion of Mahmud of Ghazni, who came as far as Gujarat. Thereafter, there was the peaceful contribution of different Sufi saints, traders and other individuals who moved to the northern region of India because of political instability or dynastic changes that were taking place in and around Central Asia and Afghanistan at that time. Gradually, a small community developed and increased its strength once Turkish rule was established in north India.

JAMI MASJID, CHAMPANER, Gujarat, 15th century. A new capital was built at Champaner by Sultan Mahmud Begarha towards the end of the 15th century. The Jami Masjid is one of the most striking buildings here. The symmetrical appearance of the whole is enhanced by the exquisite details of its parts. The surface is profusely decorated with fine carvings. It is one of the most exquisite monuments of Gujarat.



The Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque was the first mosque built in north India, in A.D. 1193. A number of Quranic verses are beautifully etched on the mosque. Some medieval writers say they are so beautifully carved that it looks as if they are written on wax.

MAHMUD GAWAN MADRASA, Bidar, Karnataka, 15th century. Founded in 1472 by Mahmud Gawan, the Persian minister of Muhammad Shah III, it was built by engineers and craftsmen from Gilan on the Caspian Sea. The structure closely resembles the madrassas of Persia and Uzbekistan.



The most impressive monument in the Qutb complex in present-day Delhi is the Qutb Minar itself. It was made in the early 13th century by Qutbuddin Aibak, the sultan of Delhi. At 72.5 metres, it is one of the tallest minarets in the world. The traveller Ibn

Batuta, who came to India after journeying all over the Islamic empire, starting from Africa and covering Samarkand and Damascus, has recorded that nowhere in the world has there been a minaret as impressive as the Qutb Minar.

STONE JAALI MOSQUE of Sidi Saiyyad, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 16th century. One of the unique features of Islamic architecture in Gujarat is the use of intricate stone jaalis with exquisite carving. Naturalistic carvings of foliated designs with delicate leaves and shoots derive directly from earlier indigenous traditions.



Close to the Qutb complex is the tomb of Ghiyasuddin Balban, another 13th century ruler of Delhi. Balban ruled from 1266 to 1286. His tomb marks a very important development in the field of architecture. Before this tomb was built, a number of arches had been made in Indian Islamic buildings, but these were not true arches. In Balban's tomb, for the first time in India, a keystone, which is fundamental to the true load-bearing arch, was used at the top of the arch. Subsequently, the true arch began to be used in numerous structures across the country.

BIBIKA MAQBARA, Aurangabad, 17th century. The mausoleum of Emperor Aurangzeb's wife Rabia ul Daurani was built by her son Prince Azam Shah between 1651 and 1661. Set at the centre of a charbagh enclosure, the white marble mausoleum was inspired by the Taj Mahal. It is known as the 'Taj Mahal of the Deccan'.

The Alai Darwaja was built by Allauddin Khilji as part of the extension of the Qutb complex in 1305. It is very fascinating from the point of view of architecture. In the 13th century, owing to Mongol attacks in West Asia and Central Asia, a large number of craftsmen had to flee from their lands. Many of them were given



refuge in this part of India and were very fruitfully employed in the making of the Alai Darwaja. We see here the introduction of the horseshoe arch in Indian monuments.

The Deccan

Meanwhile, Islamic influence continued to grow further south, in the Deccan. The end of the 15th century saw the establishment of five sultanates in the Deccan: Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golconda, Bidar and Berar. The sultan of Bijapur was a descendant of the Ottoman dynasty of Istanbul. The sultan of Golconda was a Turkman prince who had taken refuge in India. The sultans were followers of the Shia sect of Islam and were close allies of the Safavid rulers of Iran. A distinct culture thus developed in the cosmopolitan community of the Deccan.

JAMA MASJID, JUNAGADH, Sourashtra, Gujarat, originally built in the 13th century. Junagarh is located at the foothills of the Girnar hills. The name literally means "old fort". The plan of this is in the Arab style, which was not repeated in Gujarat after its subsequent conquest by the Delhi Sultanate.

The streets of the Deccani sultanates were filled with Turks, Persians, Arabs and Africans. In India, the Deccan became the greatest centre of Arabic learning and literature. In fact, Iran and Central Asia only had single courts. If you were a soldier, a religious figure, an intellectual or an artistic person and you could not find a sponsor in what is now Iran or Uzbekistan, chances were that you could find some sort of patronage in the Deccan. Thus there was a continuous migration of people, ideas and artistic devices from the Near East to the Deccan.

Qatar resident Welna O'Connor wins Haut Monde Mrs India Worldwide 2022

Qatar-based Indian national Welna O'Connor Khera has emerged as the International Winner of the Haut Monde Mrs India Worldwide 2022 and was crowned and facilitated at the grand event that was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Ras Al Khaimah.

She also bagged elements category titles- Haut Monde Mrs India Worldwide 2022 - Fire Element, and Mrs India Worldwide 2022- Perfect Smile.

O'Connor, a former international cabin crew, has proven that she is unstoppable when it comes to achieving her dreams. "I am grateful to my husband and family for their immense support and my heartfelt gratitude to the whole Haut Monde Coalition for believing that I can shoulder the responsibility of carrying the crown," O'Connor said.



Aarti Gautam: Mrs Asia Pacific Beauty Pageant first runner up

Rajasthan-born Aarti Gautam, who lives in Qatar now, bagged first runner-up in the recently held Mrs. Asia Pacific Beauty Pageant in Singapore.

She possesses a captivating personality, one that is filled with optimism and sophistication. The 55-year-old mother of two young sons is an educator by profession and is passionate about fashion, fitness, gardening and interior design.

Aarti has carried out various professional roles in her career in India, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, including being the Cultural Secretary of the Indian Women's Association in Qatar for four years. Along with other international appearances, she has also participated in several fashion shows in Qatar.

"It was like a dream come true. I feel blessed. It was a wonderful feeling being named the 1st runner up at the Mrs. Asia Pacific. At



the same time, it was certainly a challenge to compete with extremely talented young ladies from other Asian countries. On top of that, I was honored to represent my country, India, among all the participants," Aarti said.

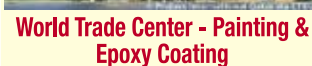
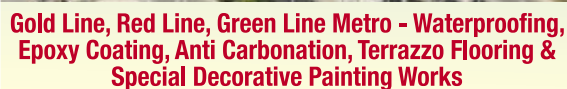
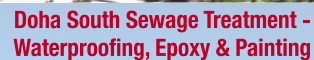


HAPPY INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

On this glorious occasion of Indian Independence Day, we pay homage to the visionary leaders of India and this great nation for strengthening the bond of friendship, unity and prosperity.

LONG LIVE INDO-QATAR FRIENDSHIP





1. Water Proofing
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4. Polyurea Coating
5. Epoxy Floor Coating
6. Structural strengthening
7. Joint Sealant
8. Protective Coating
9. Decorative Painting/Architectural Coating
10. All Kind of Texture & Special Effect Painting.
11. 3D Epoxy Flooring
12. Sports Flooring
13. Terrazzo Flooring
14. Vinyl Flooring
15. Fire Proofing and Insulation



(Coating & Waterproofing)

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