Akhbar Al-Hind

July & August 2024

सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय राजदूतावास

سفارة الهند

Embassy of India

Doha - Qatar

Inside:

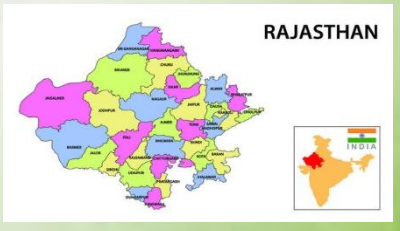
Indian Union Budget 2024-25



PM's address on 78th Independence Day



Focus State : Rajasthan



Focus Sector : Healthcare



Tourism: Kerala



78th Independence Day Celebrations



India's Union Budget 2024-25 – Key Highlights







Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, presented the first budget of the current government. The budget, particularly, focuses on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle class and for all-around prosperity. The budget also details nine priorities for generating ample opportunities for all and suggests specific actions and reforms required to realise the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Budget Theme

- Focus on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle class.
- Announcement of Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 40.1 Million youth over a 5-year period with a central outlay of US$ 24 billion.
- Provision of US$ 17.6 billion for education, employment and skilling.

Budget Priorities

In line with the Viksit Bharat strategy set out in the interim budget, the budget envisages sustained efforts on the following 9 priorities for generating ample opportunities for all.

- Productivity and resilience in Agriculture
- Employment & Skilling
- Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
- Manufacturing & Services
- Urban Development
- Energy Security
- Infrastructure
- Innovation, Research & Development and
- Next Generation Reforms

Investment

To bolster the Indian start-up eco-system, boost the entrepreneurial spirit and support innovation, the angel tax is to be abolished for all classes of investors.

To give a fillip to cruise tourism, an employment-generating industry, a simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises in the country was proposed.

To further promote the development of the diamond cutting and polishing sector, safe harbour rates to be applied for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.

To attract foreign capital for India's development needs, corporate tax rate on foreign companies will be reduced from 40 to 35%.

For complete article: Click here

News this Month

India's Union Budget 2024-25: Key highlights presented in infographics



Efforts for Employment & Education

- **Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes & initiatives** for 4.1 crore youth with an outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore over 5 years
- Under the package, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for **skilling 20 lakh youth over 5 years** will be launched
- **1000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** to be upgraded with a outcome orientation
- **The Model Skill Loan Scheme** to be revised to facilitate **Loans up to Rs 7.5 lakh,** benefiting 25,000 students/year

Efforts for MSMEs

- **SIDBI will open new branches in MSME clusters** within 3 years. With the opening of 24 such branches this year, the service coverage will expand to 168 out of 242 major clusters
- **Financial support for setting up 50 multi-product food irradiation units** in the MSME sector and 100 food quality and safety testing labs will be set up.
- **E-Commerce Export Hubs** will be set up in public private-partnership (PPP) mode to help MSMEs sell in international markets
- Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the **TReDS platform to be reduced from Rs 500 crore to Rs 250 crore.** *This measure will bring 22 more CPSEs and 7000 more companies onto the platform*

Productivity in Agriculture

- **Transforming Agriculture Research** to bring the focus on raising productivity and developing climate resilient varieties
- Release of new **109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops**
- **1 crore farmers to be initiated into Natural Farming** supported by certification and branding. 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres will be established
- **Missions to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses and oil seeds** such as mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower
- Large scale clusters for **vegetable production** will be developed closer to major consumption centres. Promotion of Farmer-Producer Organizations, cooperatives and start-ups for vegetable supply chains to be undertaken.

LAND

- **Encourage States** to moderate the **Stamp Duty rates**
- Encourage States to further lower Stamp Duties for **properties purchased by women**
- Financial support for **20+ irrigation & flood mitigation projects in Bihar with an estimated cost of ₹11,500 crores** such as Kosi-Mechi intrastate link
- Assistance for **flood management, rehabilitation,** reconstruction and related projects to **Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Sikkim**
- Ensure early completion of the **Polavaram Irrigation Project, Andhra Pradesh**

Opportunities in Eastern India

- A plan for **'Purvodaya'** will be formulated for development of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha & Andhra Pradesh
- **Support to industrial node at Gaya** on the Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor, **Kopparthy node** in AP on the Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and **Orvakal node** in AP on Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor
- Financial support of **₹15,000 crore in current financial year** to Andhra Pradesh for new capital, apart from facilitating financial support through multilateral development agencies
- **PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan to be launched for improving the socio-economic condition of tribals** by adopting saturation coverage in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts
- More than **100 branches of India Post Payment Bank** to be set up in **North East Region**

Initiatives for Youth

Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for Employment & Skilling with an outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore for our 4.1 crore youth

Employment Linked Incentive Package consisting following **3 schemes:**

- **Scheme A: 'First Timers' -** To provide 1-month wage to all persons newly entering the workforce.
- **Scheme B: Job Creation in manufacturing sector-** Incentive to be provided directly to both 1st-time employee & employer for their EPFO Contribution in first 4 years of employment.
- **Scheme C: Support to employers –** Govt will reimburse employers upto Rs 3000/month for 2 years towards their EPFO contribution for each additional employee.
- **4th Scheme:** Skilling in collaboration with States & Industry. 1000 ITIs to be upgraded.
- **5th Scheme:** Scheme for providing Internships in 500 top companies to 1 crore youth in 5 years.

Benefits for Middle Class

- For higher education of students in domestic institutions, **financial support for loans upto Rs 10 lakh will be provided.** *E-vouchers will be given for annual interest subvention of 3% of the loan amount*
- **Limit of MUDRA loans to be enhanced from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh** for entrepreneurs who have availed & successfully repaid previous loans under 'Tarun' category
- **Housing needs of 1 crore urban & middle-class families** to be addressed with an investment of **Rs 10 lakh crore under PM Awas Yojana 2.0.** Provision for interest subsidy is also envisaged
- **Enabling policies & regulations for efficient** & transparent rental housing markets will be put in place

Efforts for Energy Security

- To come up with a **policy document on appropriate energy transition pathways** that balances employment growth & environmental sustainability
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana,** which has seen more than 1.28 crore registrations, to be further encouraged
- **Policy for promoting pumped storage projects** will be brought out for electricity storage & facilitating smooth integration of growing share of renewable energy
- **R&D of Small and Modular Nuclear Reactors :** Govt will partner with private sector for – setting up **'Bharat Small Reactors';** R&D of **'Bharat Small Modular Reactor';** and R&D of Newer technologies for Nuclear energy

New Generation Reforms

- **Economic Policy Framework** to be formulated to set the scope of next generation reforms
- Investment in Infrastructure by Private sector will be promoted through **Viability Gap Funding & enabling policies.** Market-based Financing Framework will be brought out
- **Initiating & incentivizing reforms** for – improving productivity of all factors of production and facilitating markets & sectors to become more efficient
- **A Financial Sector Vision & Strategy Document** will be brought to prepare the economy in terms of size, capacity & skills and guide the work of all stakeholders
- **Integration of e-shram portal with other portals** to facilitate one-stop solution Open architecture databases for rapidly changing labour markets, skills and job roles



Technology

- The so-called **'Angel Tax' will be abolished for all classes of investors** to bolster the Indian start-up eco-system, boost the entrepreneurial spirit & support innovation
- A mechanism for promotting private sector-driven research and innovation will be set up at commercial scale with a **financing pool of Rs 1 lakh crore**
- A **venture capital fund of Rs 1,000 crore** will be set up to expand the Space Economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Sets Ambitious Vision for India's Future in 78th Independence Day Address



In his 78th Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi outlined a series of futuristic goals aimed at shaping India's growth, driving innovation, and positioning the country as a global leader across various sectors. Source

Key points from the Prime Minister's address include:

1. **Ease of Living Mission:** PM Modi outlined his vision to fulfil 'Ease of Living' on a mission mode. He spoke of enhancing the quality of life in urban areas through systematic assessments and improvements in infrastructure and services.
2. **Revival of Nalanda Spirit:** The Prime Minister sought to revive the ancient Nalanda University spirit, positioning India as a global education hub by promoting higher learning and research. This builds on the inauguration of Nalanda University in 2024.
3. **Made in India Chip-Semiconductor Production:** PM Modi outlined India's commitment to becoming a global leader in semiconductor production, aiming to reduce dependency on imports and enhance technological self-sufficiency.
4. **Skill India:** Referring to the Budget 2024, the Prime Minister highlighted landmark initiatives announced by the government to train India's youth and become the skill capital of the world.
5. **Hub of Industrial Manufacturing:** PM Modi envisioned transforming India into a global manufacturing hub, leveraging its vast resources and skilled workforce.
6. **"Design in India, Design for the World":** PM exalted indigenous design capabilities and urged to create products that cater to both domestic and international markets, coining this phrase.
7. **Leader in Global Gaming Market:** PM Modi said that India must leverage its rich ancient legacy and literature to come up with Made in India gaming products. He added that Indian professionals must lead the global gaming market, not just in playing but also in producing games, stating that Indian games should make their mark worldwide.
8. **Green Jobs and Green Hydrogen Mission:** PM Modi emphasized the importance of green jobs in India's efforts to combat climate change. He stated that the focus of the country is now on green growth and green jobs, which will generate employment opportunities while contributing to environmental protection. The Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to becoming a global leader in green hydrogen production and creating sustainable employment opportunities in environmental conservation and renewable energy sectors.
9. **Swasth Bharat Mission**: PM said that to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, India must tread the path ‘Swasth Bharat’ which has begun with the launch of Rashtriya Poshan Abhiyan.
10. **State-level Investment Competition:** PM called for state governments to establish clear policies to attract investments, offer assurances of good governance, and ensure confidence in the law and order situation.
11. **Indian Standards as Global Benchmarks:** PM Modi spoke on India's aspiration to be recognized for its commitment to quality, stating that Indian standards should aspire to become international benchmarks.
12. **Climate Change Targets:** The Prime Minister reiterated the India’s ambitious goal of achieving 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030. He noted that India has been the only country among the G20 nations to meet its Paris Accord goals.
13. **Medical Education Expansion:** PM Modi announced plans to add 75,000 new medical seats in the next 5 years, aiming to enhance the country's medical education capacity and address the growing demand for healthcare professionals.
14. **Inducting Fresh Blood in Politics:** PM Modi gave a call to bring 100,000 youth into the political system, specifically those with no history of politics in their families. The Prime Minister said this initiative was aimed at fighting the evils of nepotism and casteism and inducting fresh blood into India's polity.

From Bicycles to Digital Payments: PM Modi Hails 'Make in India' Success Story For Boosting Economy Globally

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the phenomenal success of the 'Make in India' initiative, underscoring its role in propelling India's Economy onto the global stage. In his post, PM Modi stated, "A glimpse of how 'Make in India' is propelling India's economy onto the global stage!" This sentiment reflects the transformative journey of Indian-made products as they capture global markets and earn international acclaim.



Source: Asianet

The 'Make in India' initiative has showcased the remarkable success of Indian-made products globally. This campaign has led to a significant increase in the export of Indian bicycles, which have become a global sensation. Exports to countries such as the UK, Germany, and the Netherlands have surged, highlighting India's rising influence in international markets.

India sets ambitious target to become a US$ 30 trillion economy by 2047

India aim to become a US$30 trillion economy with a per capita income of US$18,000 per annum by 2047, as detailed in NITI Aayog's 'Vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047: An Approach Paper'.

During NITI Aayog's 9th Governing Council meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the paper highlighted the need to balance energy security, access, affordability and sustainability. It stressed the importance of improving industrial competitiveness to transform the agricultural workforce into an industrial one, making India a global manufacturing and service hub.



Source: Indbiz.gov.in

Foxconn plans to assemble iPads in India, expanding operations beyond iPhones

Foxconn is planning to assemble Apple's iPads in India at its Sriperumbudur facility in Tamil Nadu, according to a report by The Economic Times. Until now, Foxconn and other contract manufacturers in India have only assembled iPhones. The report claims Foxconn is keen on starting iPad assembly soon, with initial discussions with the government already underway.

Foxconn stands to benefit from India's production-linked incentives as it increases investments in the country The company is also planning to manufacture AI servers and may produce Google's Pixel smartphones at the same facility



Source: Business Today

India targets US$1 trillion energy transformation with solar rooftops and green investments

The PM Surya Ghar scheme, a central plank in the government's strategy on universal access to power with an allocation of US$ 9 billion, seeks to install solar rooftops on one crore households, catalysing India's shift toward sustainable energy. A senior official close to implementing the scheme described PM Surya Ghar as more than a scheme, calling it a monumental effort to secure India's cleaner, more resilient energy future. Riding on the wave of significant demand response from consumers—with over 1.3 million applications received within just a few months



Source: Economic Times

IMF raises India's FY25 growth projection to 7%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's growth projection for FY25 to 7%, up from its previous forecast of 6.8% in April, maintaining India's status as the world's fastest-growing economy. This latest upgrade reflects an improved outlook for private consumption, especially in rural areas, and carryover from upward revisions in 2023. The IMF's forecast for India's growth in FY26 remains at 6.5%.

India's economy grew by 8.2% in FY24. Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the country's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast upward by 20 basis points to 7.2%. Similarly, Fitch Ratings increased India's FY25 growth forecast to 7.2% from 7%.



Source: Economic Times

Government to launch trade connect e-platform for exporters and MSMEs

The government announced the development of a trade connect e-platform to enhance connectivity between exporters, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs with Indian missions abroad, export promotion councils, and other partner government agencies. This platform aims to offer comprehensive information on global trade events, benefits from India's free trade agreements (FTAs), and other pertinent international trade-related data.



Source: Economic Times

Significant districts showing healthy export growth include Jamnagar, Kanchipuram, Mumbai, Pune, Surat, and Kachchh. During April-May of this fiscal year, Jamnagar topped the list with exports valued at US$10 billion, followed by Kanchipuram with US$3.27 billion, Mumbai with US$2.24 billion, Pune with US$2.14 billion, Kachchh with US$2 billion, and Surat with US$1.98 billion.

Additionally, the government is considering implementing an 80% concession for women entrepreneurs and a 50% concession for MSMEs on licensing fees for permits issued by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO).

ISRO launches SSLV-D3 with EOS-08 Earth Observation Satellite

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched the advanced Earth observation satellite (EOS-08) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, southern India.



The satellite will study Earth using two instruments, the Electro-Optical Infrared (EOIR) payload and the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS-R) payload.

"The infrared data transmitted by the EOIR will be used for applications such as satellite-based surveillance, disaster monitoring, environmental monitoring, fire detection,volcanic activity monitoring,industrial disaster monitoring and power plant monitoring".

Source: QNA

"Meanwhile, the GNSS-R will demonstrate the ability to use reflected GNSS signals for flood detection, soil moisture assessment and wind analysis over the ocean." The EOS-08 mission aims to integrate new technologies required for future operational satellites.

Google, Amazon, Walmart keen to join RBI digital currency project

Google Pay, Walmart-backed PhonePe, and Amazon Pay are among five payment companies seeking participation in the Indian central bank's digital currency trial by facilitating transactions through the e-rupee. These payment firms are collaborating with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the country's payments authority, and are anticipated to introduce e-rupee access within the next three to four months, it added.



Source: Reuters

By allowing well-known payment firms to facilitate e-rupee transactions, the user base is expected to expand, potentially increasing transaction volumes. Collectively, these five payment firms account for more than 85% of digital payments through UPI, which handles about 13 billion transactions monthly.

Chevron to invest $1 bn in new technology hub in India

Chevron, the American energy giant, has announced plans to invest $1 billion in a new technology hub in India. The facility, dubbed the Chevron Engineering and Innovation Excellence Centre or “The Engine”, represents a milestone for the 14y-year-old, US$ 200bn revenue company. Chevron plans to hire over 1,000 employees, including engineers, data scientists, and software developers, to work on projects related to artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT).



Source: Firstpost

Info you can use

Know India

Profile

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It has achieved all-round socio-economic progress since Independence. As the 7th largest country in the world, India stands apart from the rest of Asia, marked off as it is by mountains and the sea, which give the country a distinct geographical entity. Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer, tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.

Lying entirely in the northern hemisphere, the mainland extends between latitudes 8° 4' and 37° 6' north, longitudes 68° 7' and 97° 25' east and measures about 3,214 km from north to south between the extreme latitudes and about 2,933 km from east to west between the extreme longitudes. It has a land frontier of about 15,200 km. The total length of the coastline of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands is 7,516.6 km.



Source: Know India

States and Union Territories

India, a union of states, is a Sovereign, Secular, Democratic Republic with a Parliamentary system of Government. The President is the constitutional head of Executive of the Union. In the states, the Governor, as the representative of the President, is the head of Executive. The system of government in states closely resembles that of the Union. There are 28 states and 8 Union territories in the country. Union Territories are administered by the President through an Administrator appointed by him/her. From the largest to the smallest, each State/UT of India has a unique demography, history and culture, dress, festivals, language etc. This section introduces you to the various States/UTs in the Country and urges you to explore their magnificent uniqueness.

States and Capitals

Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati)
Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar)
Assam (Dispur)
Bihar (Patna)
Chhattisgarh (Raipur)
Goa (Panaji)
Gujarat (Gandhinagar)
Haryana (Chandigarh)
Himachal Pradesh (Shimla)
Jharkhand (Ranchi)
Karnataka (Bangalore)
Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram)
Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal)
Maharashtra (Mumbai)
Manipur (Imphal)
Meghalaya (Shillong)
Mizoram (Aizawl)
Nagaland (Kohima)
Odisha (Bhubaneshwar)
Punjab (Chandigarh)
Rajasthan (Jaipur)
Sikkim (Gangtok)
Tamil Nadu (Chennai)
Telangana (Hyderabad)
Tripura (Agartala)
Uttarakhand (Dehradun)
Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow)
West Bengal (Kolkata)

Union Territories

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Port Blair)
Chandigarh (Chandigarh)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Daman)
Lakshadweep (Kavaratti)
The Government of NCT of Delhi (Delhi)
Ladakh (Leh)
Jammu & Kashmir (Srinagar-S*, Jammu-W*)
Puducherry (Puducherry)

Healthcare Industry in India

Introduction



Healthcare has become one of India's largest sectors, both in terms of revenue and employment. Healthcare comprises hospitals, medical devices, clinical trials, outsourcing, telemedicine, medical tourism, health insurance and medical equipment. The Indian healthcare sector is growing at a brisk pace due to its strengthening coverage, services, and increasing expenditure by public as well as private players.

Source: IBEF



India's competitive advantage lies in its large pool of well-trained medical professionals. India is also cost-competitive compared to its peers in Asia and Western countries. The cost of surgery in India is about one-tenth of that in the US or Western Europe. The low cost of medical services has resulted in a rise in the country's medical tourism, attracting patients from across the world. Moreover, India has emerged as a hub for R&D activities for international players due to its relatively low cost of clinical research.

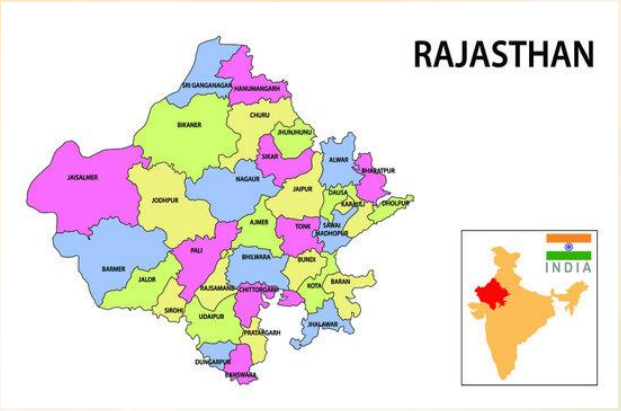
Market Size: India's hospital market was valued at US$ 98.98 billion in 2023, projected to grow at a CAGR of 8.0% from 2024 to 2032, reaching an estimated value of US$ 193.59 billion by 2032.

In FY24 (Till February 2024), premiums underwritten by health insurance companies grew to US$ 31.84 billion. The health segment has a 33.3% share in the total gross written premiums earned in the country.

Indian medical tourism market was valued at US$ 7.69 billion in 2024 and is expected to reach US$ 14.31 billion by 2029. According to India Tourism Statistics, around 634,561 foreign tourists came for medical treatment in India in 2023, which was nearly 6.87% of the total international tourists who visited the nation. With US$ 5-6 billion size of medical value travel and 500,000 International patients annually, India is among the global leader destinations for international patients seeking advanced treatment.

State Focus – Rajasthan

Rajasthan is the largest state in the country in terms of area. It is spread over the geographical area of about 342,000 square kilometre, which is 10.41% of India's total land area. The State has a total of 4 Smart Cities i.e. Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota and Ajmer.



It is located on northwest part of the country and is surrounded by the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

For more details: Click here

Resource Advantage:

Mineral Resources: Rajasthan is the third largest mineral producing state in India. The State has deposits of 81 different types of major and minor minerals.

- #1 Producer of lead (0.3mn tonnes) and zinc concentrates (11.5 mn tonnes) with 100% share
- #2 Producer of copper concentrate (0.1 mn tonnes) with 43% share
- #1 Producer of phosphorite (1284 thousand tonnes) with 92% share
- #1 Producer o Marble
- #1 On-shore producer of Crude Oil (120,000 barrels per day)
- #2 Producer of Natural Gas
- Among the top producers of limestone, copper ore, silver, rock phosphate, and gypsum

Agri Produce: Agriculture and allied sectors contributed to 29 per cent in Rajasthan's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices in 2022-23. Mistaken as a desert state, Rajasthan has a rich and diversified agri-produce. It commands a leading position in a variety of produce with potential for value addition and exports.



- #1 Producer of Moth Beans, Mustard, Pearl Millet (Bajra), Guar Gum, Fenugreek, Isabgol, Oilseeds, medicinal & aromatic crops
- #2 Producer of Spices, Fennel, Cumin, Pulses, Garlic, Nutri / coarse cereals and coriander
- #1 In Coarse Wool
- #2 In Milk Production
- #3 In Organic Farm Production
- #2 Rajasthan has the second largest Livestock population in India with significant number of cattle, sheep and goats



Power: Industries in Rajasthan are assured of quality, uninterrupted power. Rajasthan has diversified sources of energy generation in the State spanning thermal, hydel, wind, biomass, solar, and even atomic power projects.

Total Solar Power: 22,860MW

Focus State: Rajasthan

Excellent Market Access: Rajasthan shares borders with 5 major states of North and West India and has close proximity to Delhi. Companies locating here get direct access to ~40% of India's market in these states.

- 2nd Largest rail network in India
- 3rd Largest network of national highways
- 7 Airports with direct international and national connectivity
- Conduit between ports of western coastline and states of north India
- Easy access to industrial hubs in Delhi,Gujarat,Maharashtra
- Proximity to major ports like Kandla and Mundra in Gujarat
- 8 of Bharatmala corridors passing through the state
- 9 ICDs and 1 air cargo complex
- Western DFC (dedicated freight corridor) with high-speed double stack container



Industrial Infrastructure: Rajasthan, geographically the largest state of India, offers land in plenty for industrial development at competitive prices. Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO) has developed 415 industrial areas over about 93,000 acres of land. These include:

- #1 India's first country-specific zones (Japanese Zones at Neemrana & Ghiloth)
- 30+ Sector-specific Industrial Parks
- 2 Special Economic Zones

Talent and Skill: Rajasthan is committed to ensuring an abundant supply of skilled human resources by continuously striving to develop and enhance its educational infrastructure by building a strong foundation for learning, from primary education to higher studies as well as vocational & skill training. The State not only aims to meet the growing demands of industries but also to empower its people with the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable growth and development.

- 43% labour force participation rate in the state, higher than national average
- Healthy share of working age population, 56% of the total population
- Home to 88 universities and rank 4 in highest number of colleges
- 2 Major Skill Development Universities like Bhartiya Skill Development University (ranked 3rd among top skill Universities in India by NIRF)
- Rajasthan Centre of Advanced Technology (R-CAT) is the State's one-of-its-kind first IT finishing school focused on imparting advanced and emerging technologies

Quality of Life: Rajasthan's cities boast strong urban infrastructure, featuring wide roads, parks, clean drinking water, and diverse accommodation options, all at affordable prices compared to metros. The state is home to excellent educational institutions, from CBSE, ICSE, and IB-affiliated schools to undergraduate, postgraduate, and technical colleges offering modern courses. Healthcare is well-developed with specialty hospitals such as Fortis, EHCC and Narayana Hrudalaya. The beautiful cities provide ample utility and recreation options, including banks, multiplexes, supermarkets, restaurants, cafés, theatres, wellness centers, clubs and pubs apart from unpolluted environment with parks and green zones. A big advantage for working professionals is that the travel time within the cities is significantly less compared to congested metros, making daily commutes more convenient. As one of India's most popular tourist destinations, Rajasthan is rich in heritage, arts, and culture, offering numerous options for sight-seeing, outing and leisure further enhancing its appeal as an ideal place to live and thrive.

Policy Environment: Rajasthan has systematically created a policy environment that nurtures private enterprise and makes investing in the State profitable. In addition to a general package of financial incentives, sector-specific policies have been formulated to promote investment.

Tourism Focus: Kerala

Kerala

Rightly called the God's Own Country, Kerala is the most beautiful Indian state known for its laidback culture and bounty of nature. Visit here and you will be showered with palm-fringed backwaters, authentic art and architecture, rejuvenating spas and striking wildlife. Cultures of Kerala are extremely vibrant which can be seen in various dance forms and music performed here. From Kathakali to Kolkali and from Bharat Natyam to Koodiyattam – exploring the dance forms of this state is a sheer pleasure.

Here are the top places to visit in Kerala:



Alappuzha - Venice of the East



Kottayam - Land of Lakes



Thrissur – Cultural Capital of Kerala



Munnar - Hills of Paradise



Wayanad Land of spices and serenity

Things to do in Kerala:

- Walk through the Woods
- Rejuvenate through Ayurveda
- Cruise in Houseboat
- Experience village life
- Witness vibrant festivals
- Feast on Sadya
- Go for the adventure
- Stay in the lap of nature
- Kalaripayattu
- Beaches
- Shopping
- Cuisine

पर्यटन मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF TOURISM सत्यमेव जयते

Chalo INDIA

Incredible India - Kerala Tourism

https://www.chaloindia.gov.in/

India at Paris Olympics: Six medals and Six near misses

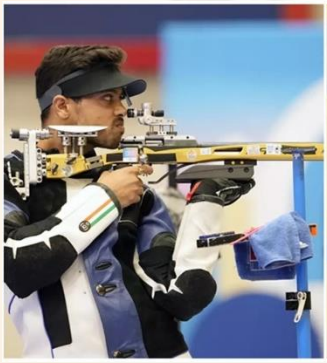
Neeraj Chopra, Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kusale, Aman Sehrawat, and the Indian hockey team contributed to the six medals, including a silver and five bronze, that India won in the Paris 2024 Olympics.

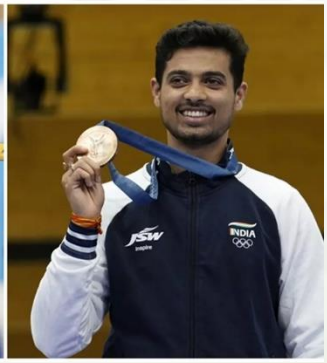
While the six medals gave many reasons to celebrate, India's campaign at the Olympics was also filled with many near misses including that of Lakshya Sen in Badminton, Saikhom Mirabhai Chanu in Weightlifting, and Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the wrestling final.















Amir and the Deputy Amir sent greetings to President of India on the occasion of Independence Day of India





HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to HE President of the Republic of India Droupadi Murmu on the anniversary of India's Independence Day.

Qatari Prime Minister sends congratulations to Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi

HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on India's Independence Day.





Ambassador met with Acting Director General of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)

Ambassador of India H. E. Mr. Vipul met with Acting Director General of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) H. E. Mr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al-Aseeri. During the meeting, topics of mutual interest were discussed in addition to way of strengthening and developing cooperation.

NPCI International partners with QNB to launch UPI Payments in Qatar



NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has signed an agreement with QNB, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, headquartered in Qatar, to launch QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments across the country. This initiative marks a significant milestone by enabling UPI payment acceptance in Qatar through the QNB merchant network, greatly benefiting Indian travelers visiting and transiting through the country.

This partnership will provide Indian tourists the option to use their preferred payment method across retail stores, tourist attractions, leisure sites, duty-free shops and hotels. This announcement is of particular significance considering that Indians rank as the second largest1 group of international visitors to Qatar. By adopting UPI payments, merchants in Qatar will also be able to offer a faster and more convenient payment and checkout process, thereby enhancing customer satisfaction and opening up numerous opportunities for businesses across the country.

India-Qatar seafood buyer-seller meet expected to bolster marine trade



IBPC Qatar, in collaboration with the Marine Products Exports Development Authority of India (MPEDA), hosted an India–Qatar B2B business meeting between exporters and importers of seafood and their value-added products. Ambassador of India HE Vipul was the chief guest at the meeting, which saw more over 70 participants from India and Qatar forging new business partnerships. Several new business deals were struck during the two-hour meet. India is the third-largest fish and aquaculture producing country in the world and the fisheries sector is a vital part of India's economy, employing over 30mn people and "significantly" contributing to the country's foreign exchange earnings, according to the Indian envoy.

QIA invest in Adani Group

Times Economic website published a report revealing new Qatari investments in the Indian Adani Group operating in the energy sector, as part of the financing round launched by the company to obtain US$1 billion from a group of investment sources, led by the Qatar Sovereign Fund, which has strengthened its presence in the group as part of its full commitment to its future plans, which are primarily based on diversifying projects far from Doha and focusing on Seizing external opportunities, especially those related to the technology and energy sectors, which enjoy endless interest from Doha.

adani

QIA جهاز قطر للاستثمار QATAR INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

78th Independence Day Celebrations







78th Independence Day of India was marked with great fervor and enthusiasm in Doha. In a ceremony held at the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) more than 350 Indians and friends of India in Qatar joined the celebrations.

The official ceremony began with Ambassador H.E. Mr. Vipul hoisting the Tricolour, followed by singing of the National Anthem and reading the Address to the Nation by President of India H.E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu on the eve of the Independence Day. Ambassador and community leaders also paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

In his remarks, Ambassador highlighted the intense diplomatic exchanges between India and Qatar in recent months including the visit Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Qatar in February 2024. He appreciated the excellent role played by the Indian community in the development of Qatar and nurturing India-Qatar ties. He thanked various Indian community organizations for their support and contributions towards well-being and growth of the community. He also expressed his gratitude towards His Highness Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and the Government of the State of Qatar for their continued patronage and support to the Indian community in Qatar.

On this occasion, Indian community members and school children presented patriotic songs and cultural programmes. The event was simultaneously live-streamed on social media handles and on YouTube Channel of the Embassy for those who joined the event virtually. A number of other events celebrating India's Independence Day have also been held over the week.

Embassy Events

Plant4Mother Campaign

Honouring #MotherEarth through #एक_पेड़_माँ_के_नाम #plant4mother campaign launched by PM Narendra Modi.

On World Environment Day Ambassador H. E. Mr. Vipul and Embassy officials planted saplings in Embassy premises





Partition Horrors Remembrance Day



Ambassador inaugurated a photo exhibition on the occasion of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in the Consular Hall of the Embassy. The exhibition recalls the suffering of the countless people who were impacted because of partition of India when it attained freedom in 1947.

In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador stressed the need for Indians to always remained committed to the values enshrined in the Constitution of India and urged them to protect the bonds of unity and fraternity in India.



Lulu Hypermarket holds India Utsav to mark 78th Indian Independence Day



Rawabi Group's 'The Great India Festival' marks Independence Day



Safari Group's Flavours of India 2024



FFC's Great Indian Deals 2024

Ambassador's interview to Gulf Times: To meet the demands of its burgeoning population in Qatar, the Indian embassy is planning to outsource its consular service very soon



"This is a proposal we are discussing with the Ministry of External Affairs in India so that we can be far more efficient and provide better consular services. We are at an advanced stage of discussions and it will take place sometime soon," Indian ambassador Vipul told *Gulf Times*.

"Once it is outsourced, the entire services will be done by the agency that will handle it. This includes issuing of new passports, renewal of the passports, visa service, police verification certificates, attestation of documents among others," explained the envoy.

For complete article: Click here

India, Qatar to expand co-operation to new areas: Ambassador



The thriving and robust India-Qatar relations with an annual trade volume of $16bn, are set to grow higher with collaborations in several new areas, stated Indian ambassador H. E. Mr. Vipul in an exclusive interview with *Gulf Times.*

"India and Qatar have very strong and robust bilateral relations. There are several new areas of that India and Qatar are aiming to collaborate and some of them have already taken place. In the last one year itself, there have been great developments on several areas," he explained.

For complete article: Click here

Ambassador's Independence Day Address to the Indian Community in Qatar through FM 107 and Radio Suno





Monthly Meeting with Ambassador





Ambassador addressed consular & related issues of Indian nationals in the monthly meeting with the community held on 1 August and 5 September 2024. Embassy officials and ICBF Qatar office bearers were also present to provide guidance.

Special Consular Camp











The Embassy of India conducted special consular camps in several locations in Qatar. These camps provided various consular services. At Al Shamal Sports Club, Al Shamal, 40 services were provided; at Amwaj MGV-2 Camp, Messaieed, 72 services were provided; at Galfar Office Zekreet, Dukhan, 41 services were provided; at Kor Bay Residency, Al Khor, 242 services were provided; and at Imara Healthcare, Asian Town, 146 services were provided.



Ambassador met with Indian athlete Ashutosh Prakash

Ambassador H. E. Mr. Vipul met with Indian athlete Ashutosh Prakash, who set a Guinness record for the fastest crossing of Qatar (in 30 hours 31 min) a few months back.

Media Corner

India in Local News

Qatar Tribune

GULF TIMES

The Peninsula

NewsTrail

India's FX reserves surge to touch another peak of $670.86 billion

Chevron to invest $1 bn in new technology hub in India

Make in India: Defence industry hits new high with highest-ever production value in 2023-24

Xiaomi aims to double shipments of devices in India by 2034

'Smartphones help India lift 800 mn people out of poverty'

India's seafood exports see substantial growth

Foxconn business in India crosses $10 bn mark; invests $1.4 bn till date

Citigroup sees India luring $100 billion in foreign investment

Airbus shortlists locations for copter assembly line in India

Google, Amazon 'keen to join RBI digital currency project'

Exports rise 2.56% to $35.2 bn in June despite global challenges

European carbon removal specialists to support India projects

DCICAI hosted its 3rd Badminton Tournament



The Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (DCICAI) successfully hosted its 3rd Badminton Tournament and saw enthusiastic participation from more than 70 members. The event featured matches across Sub Junior, Junior, Women's, and Men's categories, highlighting the talent and sportsmanship of all the participants.

DCICAI hosted 'Foreign Investments in India: Regulation and Protection



DCICAI organized a seminar on 'Foreign Investments in India: Regulation and Protection', in Doha. Ambassador of India H. E. Mr. Vipul emphasized the importance of foreign investments in India's economic strategy. The keynote address was delivered by CA Sreejith Kuniyil, Managing Partner at CAPITAIRE, who provided a detailed analysis of India's regulatory framework governing foreign investments and the mechanisms in place to protect investors.

FGE, Institution of Engineers (India) organise Green Energy Conference



The Federation of Global Engineers (FGE) and the Institute of Engineers India (IEI), Qatar Chapter, hosted the Green Energy Conference 2024 at MES Indian School. The event, in collaboration with the Indian Society of Technical Education (ISTE) and the Solar Energy Society of India (SESI), emphasised innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

Diplomats Sandeep Kumar Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Ambassadors of Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal, Sri Lanka, leading figures from the Qatari engineering and business sphere along with academic experts from Qatar University, Liverpool University, contributed their insights on sustainable practices. A MoU between ISTE and FGE was also signed which aims to foster joint research, knowledge sharing, and the development of sustainable energy projects across Asia, the MENA region, and beyond.

Ministry of Labour organised a football tournament for the Indian community



Karnataka Sangha Qatar organised Blood Donation Campaign



ICBF hosts free medical camp for Workers



ICBF conducts Carrom Tournament for Workers



Bharat Azadi Ke Rang 2024 – Independence Day celebrations by ICBF







The Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with an event titled 'Bharat Azadi Ke Rang 2024' on August 16.

The event at Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) attracted significant participation of the working force from different labour camps across Qatar, highlighting ICBF's extensive community outreach.

The programme featured a vibrant array of cultural performances celebrating India's rich heritage. The event was inaugurated by Ambassador HE Vipul. Indian embassy first-secretary and ICBF Coordinating Officer Eish Singhal was also present.

In his address, Ambassador HE Vipul lauded the unity of the Indian community in Qatar and highlighted the diverse representation in the hall, reflecting the rich cultural tapestry of India.

Embassy Notice Board

Upcoming Events and Announcements











Embassy Notice Board

Advisory

In order to make the Consular Services delivery more efficient, it has been decided to revise the timings for the Consular Services. All applicants are requested to note that the revised timings will be effective from **19th May, 2024 (Sunday).**

Revised timings for Consular Services:

i. *Timings for Passport, PCC & Visa services* ***[No Change]***

a. *08:00 AM to 11:15 AM: Submission of applications*

b. *14:00 PM to 16:15 PM: Delivery of services*

ii. *New timings for Attestation, POA, NRI, NOC & other miscellaneous services* ***[Change]***

c. *12:00 PM to 15:00 PM: Submission of applications & Delivery of services*

Embassy at your service
Consular Service Report for the Month of Jul & Aug 2024

S. No.	Service	No of Services Rendered
1	Passport & EC	13601
2	Misc. Consular Services	10877
3	Visa issued	1370
4	OCI issued	14
	Total Services	**25862**

Apex Bodies

Indian Cultural Centre under the aegis of Embassy of India, Doha - Qatar

Website: ICC Qatar
iccqatarcons@gmail.com
Tel No.: 4468 6607

INDIAN COMMUNITY BENEVOLENT FORUM Under The Patronage of EMBASSY OF INDIA, QATAR

Website: icbfqatar
icbfqatar@gmail.com
Tel No.: 7786 7794

IBPC QATAR INDIAN BUSINESS & PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

Website: ibpcqatar
info@ibpcqatar.com

Indian Sports Centre UNDER THE AEGIS OF EMBASSY OF INDIA

indiansportscentre@gmail.com
Tel / Whatsapp : 6612 7451

सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय राजदूतावास

سفارة الهند

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Doha - Qatar

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