Akhbar Al-Hind

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सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय राजदूतावास

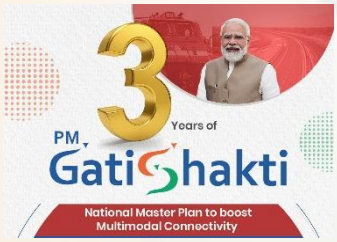
سفارة الهند

Embassy of India

Doha - Qatar

Inside:

3 Years of PM Gati Shakti



ITUWTSA Summit



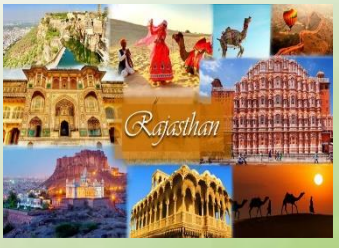
Focus State : Arunachal Pradesh



Focus Sector : Defence Manufacturing Industry



Tourism: Rajasthan



India Qatar held 5th FOC



News this Month

3 Years of PM Gati Shakti: Transforming India's Infrastructure and Connectivity

Introduction

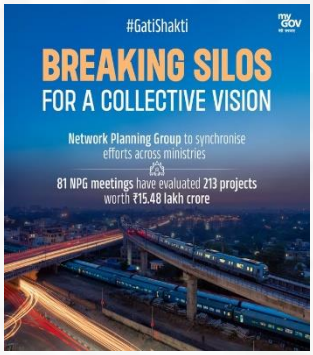
On the 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 'PM Gati Shakti' initiative during his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity was launched on October 13, 2021. This digital platform is designed to bring various Ministries, including Railways and Roadways, to ensure integrated planning and coordinated execution of infrastructure projects. The initiative aims to provide seamless and efficient connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services across various modes of transport, thereby enhancing last-mile connectivity and reducing travel time.

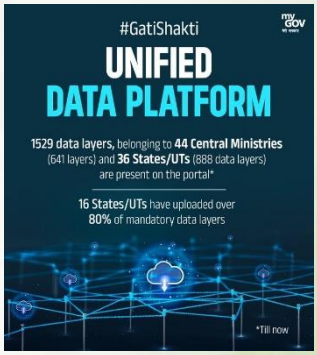


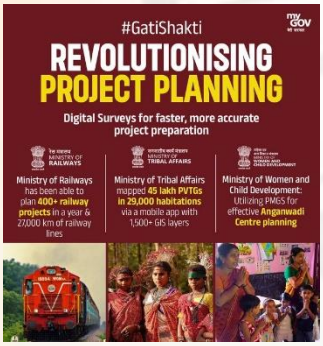
PM Gati Shakti incorporates the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, and UDAN.

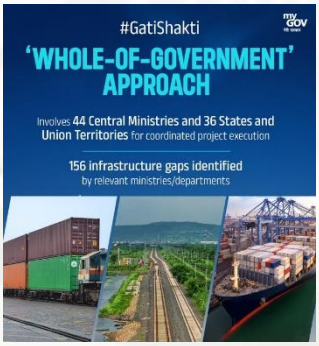


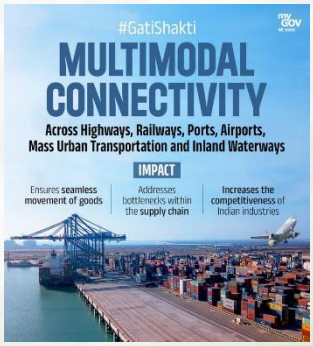


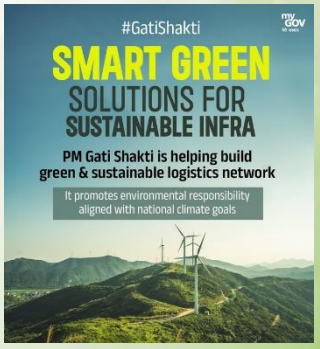






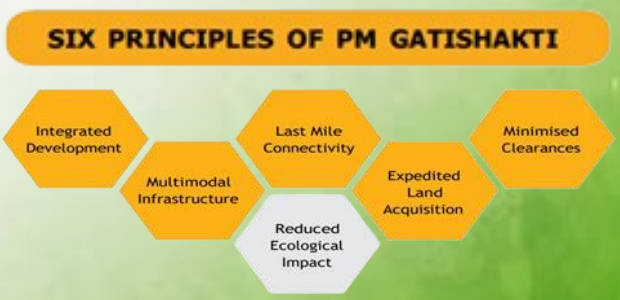






Conclusion

The PM Gati Shakti initiative represents a transformative approach to infrastructure development in India, aiming to create a seamless and efficient multimodal transportation network. By integrating the efforts of various ministries and leveraging advanced technologies, this initiative seeks to enhance connectivity and reduce logistics costs across the nation.



The Gati Shakti Sanchar portal further supports this vision by streamlining the Right of Way approvals process, accelerating telecom infrastructure rollout, and facilitating the rapid deployment of 5G services across the country. With these combined efforts, India is well-positioned to achieve its ambitious goals of Aatmanirbharta.

ITU-WTSA 2024 Concludes: India Leads the Charge for shaping the future of telecommunications/ICT with Global Backing for its pioneering resolutions in Telecommunications and Digital Innovation



As the International Telecommunications Union - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (ITU-WTSA 2024) concludes, India has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of global telecommunications. Through its proactive engagement, India has successfully proposed groundbreaking Resolutions and contributed to the modification of existing ones, receiving widespread endorsement from member nations.

Key proposals by India include:

1. A new Resolution on Enhancing the standardization activities on Digital Public Infrastructure.
2. A new Resolution on Standardization activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector on AI technologies in support of telecommunications/ Info & Communication Technology (ICT).



Other new ITU-T Resolutions supported by India include:

3. Enhancing the standardization activities on sustainable digital transformation
4. Promoting and strengthening metaverse standardization
5. Promoting & strengthening Standardization Activities for Vehicular Communications
6. Strategic Planning in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector
7. Provision of handset-derived caller location information for emergency communications
8. Enhancing the engagement of next generation experts in ITU-T standardization activities.

These initiatives not only bolster India's role as leader in the areas of telecommunication/ Information & Communication Technology (ICT), but also align seamlessly with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a robust Digital Public Infrastructure, as articulated during India's G-20 Presidency. His emphasis on creating a global framework for digital technology underscores the importance of these resolutions for global governance. These resolutions are also aligned with PM Modi's four pillars of Digital India - Low-priced devices, extensive reach of digital connectivity to every nook and corner of the country, easily accessible data and goal of 'Digital First'.

Additionally, India has also contributed significantly to the revision of approximately 25 existing resolutions. Notable approvals and consensus reached include Collaboration with ISO/IEC, Telecom Numbering Management, Cybersecurity, Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, and ICT & Environment/Climate Change. This progress reflects a collaborative spirit, with many resolutions achieving consensus without changes, reinforcing a unified approach to global standards.

India's active participation has not only highlighted its leadership in telecommunications but has also garnered support from numerous countries, including the USA, UK, Brazil, China, Japan, and Australia. India's chairmanship of the event also saw many long discussed structural reforms carried out successfully, like creating a new Study Group based on merger of SG9 and SG16, having not more than one chair from one country and finalization of leadership positions despite lot of divergent views.

WTSA 24 featured eight new resolutions and 44 modified resolutions were taken up. This 10-day event witnessed record-breaking milestones establishing India as a substantial player in the telecommunications industry. Some of the key highlights of the event are:

1. **Record Participation:** A historic turnout of 3,700 delegates from over 160 countries, marking the highest participation ever for a WTSA assembly.
2. **Leadership Recognition:** R. R. Mittar, a prominent telecom expert and former Advisor at Department of Telecommunications, Government of India was unanimously elected as Chair for WTSA-24.
3. **Leadership in Study Groups:** Maximum number of leadership positions secured by India ever in ITU-T. Now all 10 ITU-T Study Groups and SCV (Standards Committee on vocabulary has Indian experts in leadership role. This is a major jump from from 7 such positions in WTSA 22 to 11 positions now
4. **Championing Gender Balance:** The event celebrated unprecedented female participation, advancing gender equity in telecommunications with the highest female participation of 26% for the WTSAs held outside Geneva (in Geneva 2022, it was 32%)
5. **Maximum side events:** More than 15 high level side event were also organized along with the WTSA like AI4Good: India impact, Network for Women (NoW), Kaleidoscope, Regulators Conference, UN Disaster Risk Reduction Conferencing, ITU-WHO Safe listening, Hackathon, ITU Expo etc.
6. **Unprecedented Academic Engagement:** The 15th ITU Kaleidoscope Conference saw record paper submissions, reflecting global interest in the future of digital infrastructure. Two-third of these papers were from India as well as the top three papers awarded the best paper prize.
7. **Participation of Youth and Entrepreneurs:** Events like Robotics for Good Youth Challenge India and Innovational Exchange saw participation of Youth and Entrepreneurs. Students from across 11 states participated in the challenge. Out of 120 teams, 51 teams were selected to present their robotics solutions under the theme of disaster management. As a part of AI for Good Impact India, the winners of the junior and senior categories will go to Geneva in July 2025 to compete internationally. In Innovational Exchange saw thematic discussions by youth and startups on NextGen Networks (5G/6G), AI & robotics, Secured Communication Networks, and Quantum Communications.
8. **Bharat 6G Alliance:** Key MoUs were signed with international stakeholders, a step towards the promise of India's contribution to 10% of global 6G patents.

The successful culmination of ITU-WTSA 2024 marks a historic chapter in India's telecommunications journey. India's leadership in proposing forward-thinking resolutions and fostering global consensus has solidified its position as a key player in shaping the future of digital infrastructure. With record-breaking participation, strategic MoUs, and enhanced leadership in ITU-T Study Groups, India has demonstrated its commitment to driving innovation and inclusivity in telecommunications. As we move forward, India's proactive engagement in standardization efforts will continue to influence the global digital landscape, ensuring a sustainable and digitally empowered future for all.

India calls for financial integration at BRICS summit







India reinforced its commitment to financial integration within BRICS, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi advocating for trade in local currencies during the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan. PM Modi reiterated that India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has already proven to be a successful model adopted by several countries, encouraging more BRICS members to explore trading in local currencies. This initiative, backed by the BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative (BCBPI), reflects the desire to reduce reliance on the US dollar, especially in light of Western sanctions against Russia following the Ukraine conflict.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking at the summit, commended India's impressive economic growth, citing its 7.5% growth rate as an inspiration for other BRICS nations. He also highlighted the strong trade ties between Russia and India, noting a record bilateral trade turnover of US$ 56.8 billion last year, driven largely by oil supplies. Trade between the two countries increased by 9% in January-August 2024. **Source:** [Business Standard] **and** [The Hindu]

IMF maintains India's growth forecast at 7% for 2024-25

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its GDP growth outlook for India at 7% for the financial year 2024-25 and 6.5% for 2025-26, according to its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report. These projections ensure India retains its status as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.



Source: [Deccan Herald]

India's automobile exports rise 14% in H1 FY24

According to data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), automobile exports from India increased by 14% in the first half of the current fiscal year, supported by a recovery in key international markets. Exports during the April-September period reached 2,528,248 units, compared to 2,211,457 units during the same period last year. The rebound in export performance was attributed to the recovery of key markets, including Latin America and Africa



Source: [Economic Times]

India's per capita income set to surge by US$2,000 in five years: FM Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed optimism about India's economic prospects, forecasting a US$2,000 increase in the nation's per capita income over the next five years. While it took India 75 years to reach a per capita income of US$2,730, the next leap is expected to occur much faster. She underscored the importance of consumption, which constitutes over 60% of India's GDP and highlighted the country's youthful population, with 43% of citizens under 24.



News this Month

India set to become fourth-largest consumer durables market by 2030



India is on track to become the fourth-largest market for consumer durables by 2030, potentially creating 500,000 new jobs, according to a recent report by EY-Parthenon and CII. The report, titled Vision 2030: India's Rise as a Global Force in Consumer Electronics and Durables, projects the sector will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11%, reaching a market size of INR 3 lakh crore by 2029. Currently contributing 0.6% to India's GDP, the consumer durables sector could increase its economic contribution by 1.5 times in the coming years, primarily driven by rising domestic demand, a focus on sustainability, and increasing indigenisation.

Source: Economic Times

While India lags behind other markets in online sales, with only about 14% of sales happening online, the sector is expected to witness growth in this area. Online sales will likely expand as the supply infrastructure develops, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities and rural regions, bolstered by government initiatives such as the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Government eases export rules for dual-use goods to foreign subsidiaries in 41 countries



The Indian government has eased export regulations for 36 dual-use goods, facilitating smoother transfers of software and technology from Indian parent companies to their subsidiaries in 41 countries. This change falls under the Global Authorisation for Intra-Company Transfer (GAICT) policy and is part of the SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technologies) framework, which governs products with both industrial and military applications.

Source: Economic Times

India's digital transformation poised to create a US$1 trillion economy by 2028



India's financial ecosystem has undergone a paradigm shift driven by the government's digital initiatives and the widespread adoption of efficient and affordable 4G and 5G services. According to a report by Ask Capital, the country is on course to becoming a US$1 trillion digital economy by 2028, with increased internet penetration and homegrown technological innovations such as UPI playing pivotal roles. By 2027, UPI is expected to account for 90% of total retail digital payments. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also plans to introduce the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) to simplify credit processes, especially for rural borrowers, by enabling seamless data transfer between lenders and data providers.

Source: Economic Times

Apple to boost India presence with new stores, locally made iPhones



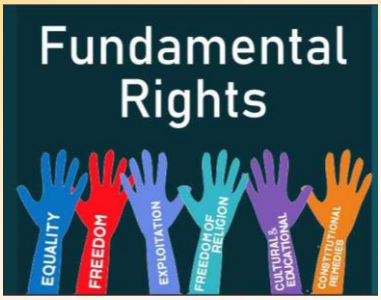
Apple is set to strengthen its presence in India by launching four new retail stores and debuting its first 'Made in India' iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max models. The tech giant, which already has two stores in Delhi and Mumbai, plans to open new outlets in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai next year. In addition to expanding its retail footprint, Apple will soon begin selling locally manufactured iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max models in India. The company has been producing iPhones in India since 2017, and the iPhone 16 series will be available for domestic and export markets.

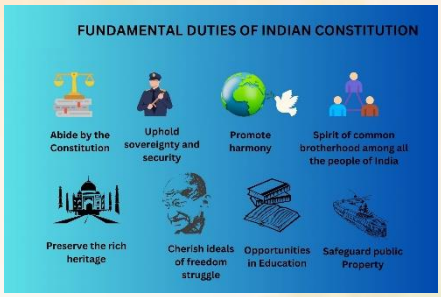
Source: IndBiz

Info you can use

Know India







Citizenship

The Constitution of India provides for a single citizenship for the whole of India. Every person who was at the commencement of the Constitution (26 January 1950) domiciled in the territory of India, and (a) who was born in India, or (b) either of whose parents was born in India, or (c) who has been ordinarily resident in India for not less than five years, became a citizen of India. The Citizenship Act, 1955 deals with matters relating to acquisition, determination and termination of Indian citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.

Fundamental Rights

The Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights, which are justiciable. Article 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights. These are:

- Right to equality, including equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and equality of opportunity in matters of employment.
- Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association or union, movement, residence, and right to practice any profession or occupation (some of these rights are subject to security of the State, friendly relations with foreign countries, public order, decency or morality).
- Right against exploitation, prohibiting all forms of forced labour, child labour and traffic in human beings.
- Right to freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion.
- Right of any section of citizens to conserve their culture, language or script, and right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice; and
- Right to constitutional remedies for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

Fundamental Duties

By the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, adopted in 1976, Fundamental Duties of the citizens have also been enumerated. Article 51 'A', contained in Part IV A of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties. These enjoin upon a citizen among other things, to abide by the Constitution, to cherish and follow noble ideals, which inspired India's struggle for freedom, to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so, and to promote harmony and spirit of common brotherhood transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities.

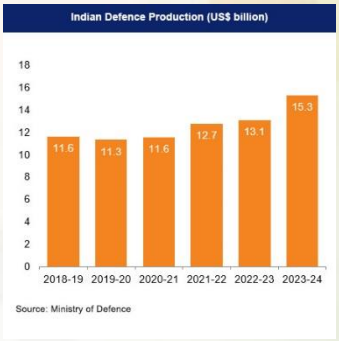
Source: India Book 2020 - A Reference Annual

Source: Know India

Defence Manufacturing Industry in India



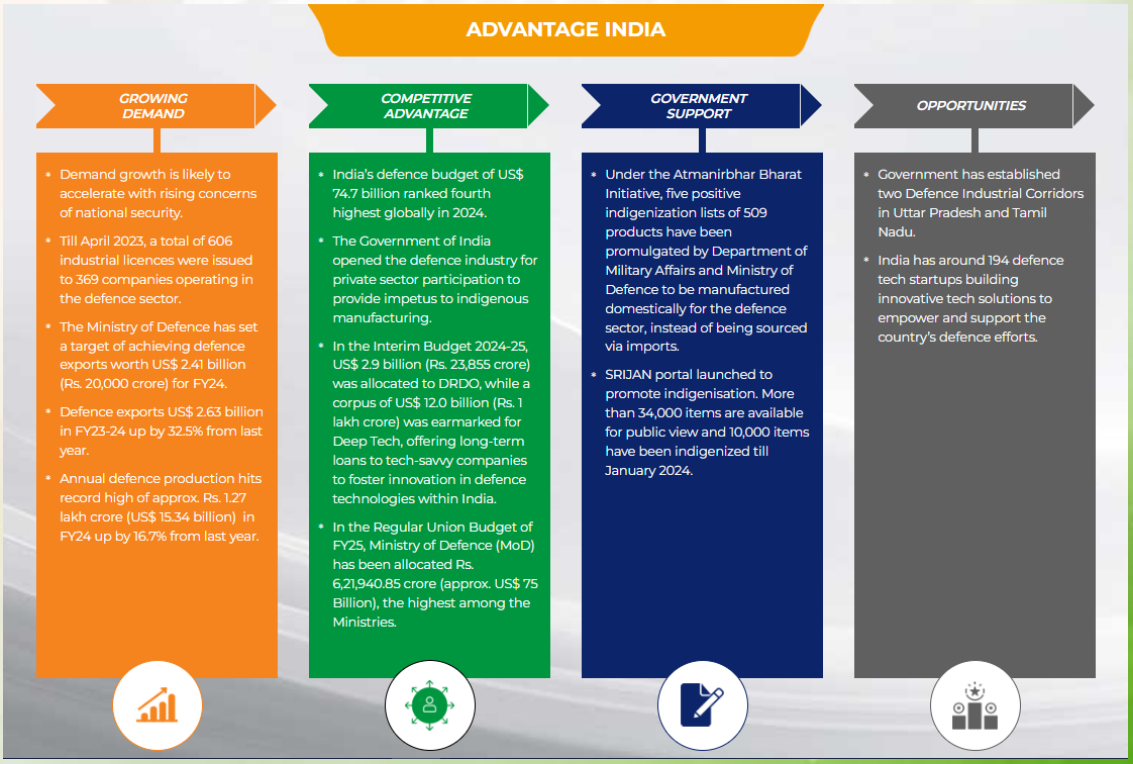
Introduction: India is one of the strongest military forces in the world and holds a place of strategic importance for the Indian government. The top three largest market segments of the Indian defence sector are military fixed wing, naval vessels and surface combatants, and missiles and missile defence systems. Military rotorcraft, submarines, artillery, tactical communications, electronic warfare, and military land vehicles are some of the other well-known segments. Some of the major defence manufacturing companies in India are Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).



Market Size: According to the Global Power Index, the Indian defence sector ranks fourth in terms of firepower with a score of 0.0979 (with 0.0 being the perfect score). The Indian government has set the defence production target at US$ 25 billion by 2025 (including US$ 5 billion from exports by 2025). India is one of the world's biggest defence spenders with a total outlay of US$ 74.8 billion (Rs. 6.21 lakh crore), accounting for 13.04% of the total budget and indicating an increase of 4.72% over the Budget of 2023-24 and 18.35% over the allocation for 2022-23.

India's military spending of US$ 81.4 billion ranked fourth highest in the world in 2022. This was up by 6% from 2021. The value of defence production in the country for 2023-24 stood at Rs. 1,26,887 crore (US$ 15.3 billion) while the defence production by PSU's stood at Rs. 73,945 crore (US$ 8.93 billion).

India's defence import value stood at US$ 463 million for FY20 and US$ 469.5 million in FY21. India targets to export military hardware worth US$ 5 billion (Rs. 35,000 crore) in the next five years. As of 2019, India ranked 19th in the list of top defence exporters in the world by exporting defence products to 42 countries. Defence exports stood at US$ 2.53 billion (Rs. 21,083 crores) in 2023-24 which is 32% increase from previous year. Defence exports rose 240% over five years in FY23 and India now exports to over 85 countries due to collaborative efforts. **Source:** IBEF



Recent Developments: The Indian Defence Manufacturing sector has seen some major investments and developments in the recent past.

- A Green Propulsion System developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of DRDO, showcased successful in-orbit functionality on a payload launched during the PSLV C-58 mission. The project, led by Bengaluru-based start-up Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd, surpassed all performance parameters as per Telemetry data from the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) at ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC). This eco-friendly propulsion system, comprising indigenously developed components, offers a non-toxic solution ideal for low orbit space missions with high thrust requirements. The project, overseen by DRDO's Project Monitoring & Mentoring Group, highlights the success of the TDF initiative in fostering innovation within India's defence and aerospace sectors, particularly among start-ups and MSMEs.
- In a major boost to Aatmanirbharta in defence & minimise imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence has notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting of 346 items. These include strategically important Line Replacement Units/Systems/Sub-systems/Assemblies/Sub-assemblies/Spares & Component, with import substitution value worth Rs. 1,048 crore (US$ 126.57 million).
- In July 2024, The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has awarded seven new projects to industries under its Technology Development Fund scheme.

Government Initiatives:

- The Central government aims to take India’s defence exports up to US$ 5 billion by 2024-25.
- Of the Interim Budget for Financial Year 2024-25, Ministry of Defence has been allocated a total budget of US$ 74.8 billion (Rs. 6,21,540.85 crore), which is 13.04% of the total budget.
- In the Interim Budget 2024-25, the Capital Investment Outlay has been increased by 11.1% to US$ 133 billion (Rs. 11.1 lakh crore), which would be 3.4% of GDP. This also means tripling of the capital expenditure outlay in the past 4 years.
- As per the Interim Budget 2024-25, the Capital Allocations pertaining to modernization and infrastructure development of the Defence Services increased to US$ 20.7 billion (Rs. 1,72,000 crore) representing a rise of almost US$ 1 billion (Rs. 9,400 crore) (5.8%) over 2023-24.
- The Interim budget 2024-25 earmarked US$ 7.2 million (Rs. 60 crore) for the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme, specifically designed to support new startups, MSMEs, and academia engaged in defence-related innovation aiming to attract young talent interested in niche technology development, fostering collaboration with DRDO.

Road Ahead: The Indian government is focusing on innovative solutions to empower the country's defence and security via 'Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)', which has provided a platform for start-ups to connect to the defence establishments and develop new technologies/products in the next five years (2021-2026). Working through partner incubators, iDEX has been able to attract the start-up community to participate in the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC) programme.



In an effort to boost the defence sector and increase the infusion of FDI, the government in September 2020 revised the regulations and permitted FDI under the automatic route up to 74% and 100% through the government route in any area, where it is likely to provide access to contemporary technologies. The Defence Ministry has set a target of 70% self-reliance in weaponry by 2027, creating huge prospects for industry players. Green Channel Status Policy (GCS) has been introduced to promote and encourage private sector investments in defence production to promote the role of private sector in defence production. Given the government's emphasis on easing restrictions on foreign investment in order to achieve India's goal of an "Atmanirbhar Bharat," the growth trajectory of the Indian defence sector remain strong.

Source: IBEF

State Focus – Arunachal Pradesh



Introduction: Arunachal Pradesh is the largest among the seven states located in the northeast of India, with an area of 83,743 sq kms. It shares its borders with the neighboring countries of Bhutan in the west, China (Tibet) in the north and northeast, Myanmar in the east and southeast, and the Indian states of Assam and Nagaland in the south. The geographic location of the state provides immense opportunities for international trade with South Asian countries such as Myanmar, Bhutan, and China. At current prices, Arunachal Pradesh's GSDP is estimated to reach Rs. 37,870 crore (US$ 4.60 billion) in 2023-24. It depicts a growth of 28.9% over 2022-23 budget estimates.

The land is mostly mountainous with the Himalayan ranges. The state is divided into five river valleys - the Kameng, the Subansiri, the Siang, the Lohit, and the Tirap. These river valleys have immense hydropower potential, currently estimated at 50,328 Megawatt (MW), or approximately 22% of India's current power generating capacity. As of March 2024, Arunachal Pradesh had a total installed power-generation capacity of 773.32 MW. The state has significantly scaled up its capacity by capitalising on its hydropower potential. The state's economy is largely agrarian, based on the terraced farming of rice and the cultivation of crops such as maize, millet, wheat, pulses, sugarcane, ginger, oilseeds, cereals, potato, and pineapple.

Some of the other key industries of the state include art and crafts, weaving, cane and bamboo, horticulture, power, and mineral based industry. The state and central Governments have both offered huge fiscal and policy incentives for the development of thrust sectors in the state. Some of these policies include Public Private Partnership Policy 2011, the State Industrial Policy 2008, and the Hydro Power Policy 2008.

ADVANTAGE

High economic growth	At current prices, Arunachal Pradesh's GSDP is estimated to reach Rs. 37,870 crore (US$ 4.60 billion) in 2023-24.
Huge hydropower potential	Hilly terrain and abundant rivers makes the state a potential powerhouse in the Northeast. The Department of Hydropower Development, Arunachal Pradesh, is wholly entrusted with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of hydropower projects in the state.
International trade opportunities	The state's location provides opportunities for international trade with Asian countries such as Myanmar, Bhutan and China. Merchandise export from the state reached US$ 2.90 million in FY24
Policy and fiscal incentives	The State and Central Government offer huge fiscal and policy incentives for the development of important sectors.

KEY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Public Private Partnership Policy 2011
Leverage State and Central Government funds to support private investment.

Hydro Power Policy 2008
Harness hydropower potential of the state and accelerate hydropower development.

State Industrial Policy 2008
Facilitate and promote growth of the industry, employment and investment in the state.

North East Industrial Development Scheme 2017
Promote Northeast as an attractive investment region and drive productivity.

KEY SECTORS OF THE STATE

Textiles and Handicrafts
The state consists of an enriching collection of unique and appealing handloom designs from each of its tribes. Raw silk production [provisional] in the state reached 49 metric tonnes (MT) in FY23.

Agriculture and Forest Based Industries
In 2018-19 (as per third advance estimates), fruits and vegetables production stood at 125.84 thousand tonnes and 17.39 thousand tonnes, respectively.

Mineral Based Industries
Arunachal Pradesh has considerable mineral reserves. In FY20, the total production of crude petroleum in the state stood at 57 thousand tonnes, and natural gas at 12 MCM.

Tourism
Angling, boating, rafting, trekking and hiking are preferred among travelers to Arunachal Pradesh. In the past quarter, tourism has been negatively impacted due to the pandemic

Key Sectors

Power:
Commissioning of the sixth hydro power plant in the North East i.e. 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station in Arunachal Pradesh. The project will form part of projected hydro capacity addition of 30000 MW by 2030.



The state contributes for over 40% of India's Hydropower potential, which translates to over 58,160 MW capacity as well as for 9% of India's small hydropower potential. Cabinet approved for India's largest 2880 MW Dibang Hydro Power Project. GOI and State government have come together to rejuvenate and execute 12 stalled



Agriculture and Forest-based Industries:
Arunachal Pradesh is the 1st Indian state, that obtained "organic certification of kiwifruit" under the "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD- NER)"

Orange of Arunachal Pradesh, is geographical indication (GI) tagged. Arunachal mandarin orange is more commonly known as Wakro orange which accounts for almost 90% of the total citrus population.

Arunachal Pradesh Yak Churpi, first ever yak milk product, has been given recognition as a Geographical Indication (GI).



Textile and Handicrafts: Production of raw silk in the state stood at 53 MT in 2021-22

Major textile produce from the state includes cotton shawls, side bags and curtain cloth. Carpet making is an important occupation in the districts of Tawang, West Kameng, Changlang and Upper Siang.



Tourism: Arunachal Pradesh has 12 tourist circuits across 83,743 sq. km. Each tourist circuit is distinctive in character with different ethnic cultures, topography, and vegetation.

Religious tourism- birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama & has India's Largest Monastery, Tawang Monastery and Parshuram Kund.

More than 622 rare species of Orchids are found in the dense jungles of Arunachal Pradesh. The misty hills, sparkling rivers, gurgling waterfalls add charm to the beauty of this incredible land.

Arunachal Pradesh India is dotted with innumerable historical monuments and archeological remains, along with major attractions - Ropeway between Tawang Monastery & Anni Gompa, Nuranang Falls (Jung Falls), and the Khinmey Nyingma Monastery.

8 wildlife sanctuaries and 2 national parks are present in the state. To provide ease of travel by facilitating smooth entry into the State through the online

Link: **https://arunachaltourism.com/**
Source: **Invest India**

Tourism Focus: Rajasthan

Rajasthan: Land of Kings

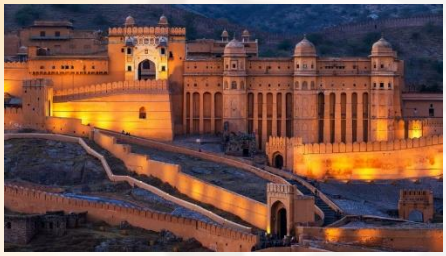
Rajasthan, known as the "Land of Kings" and India's largest desert state, is a captivating destination in northern India that mesmerise travellers from around the world. The state presents a harmonious blend of lively cities, hospitable locals, exquisite cuisine, majestic palaces, and grand forts. Rajasthan offers a perfect travel experience, seamlessly fusing timeless allure with contemporary charm. This enchanting state beckons you with a symphony of vibrant cultures, a canvas painted with tales of valour, and landscapes that will steal your heart.



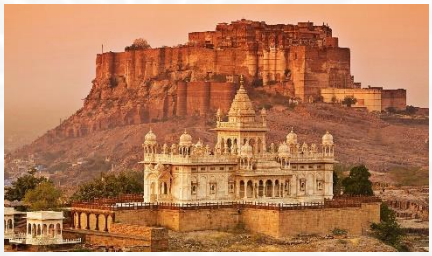
Forts & Palaces: High rampart and magnificent facades of Rajasthani forts enclose elegant palaces and gardens within their confines. Glittering mirror-work, ornate sculptures, and exquisite stonework portray the opulence of the Rajputs. Amber Fort and Mehrangarh Fort are the two stunning forts while Umaid Palace and Hawa Mahal illustrate the royal chic.



Umaid Palace



Amber Fort



Mehrangarh Fort



Hawa Mahal

A canvas of diverse landscapes: Beyond its royal heritage, Rajasthan boasts a diverse and captivating natural landscape. The Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, stretches across Rajasthan and offers a surreal landscape of golden sands and undulating dunes. A camel safari through the desert is an unforgettable experience. Rajasthan's only hill station, Mount Abu, is a lush oasis amid the arid terrain. The cool climate, serene lakes, and verdant forests make it a perfect retreat for nature lovers. Keoladeo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a haven for birdwatchers. It is home to over 370 species of birds, including migratory ones, making it a paradise for ornithologists. Ranthambore is famous for its tiger population and is one of the best places in India for tiger sightings. The park's diverse wildlife and picturesque landscapes add to its allure. Pushkar, a sacred town, is centred around the tranquil Pushkar Lake. The ghats and temples around the lake make it a spiritually significant and visually appealing destination.



The Thar Desert



Keoladeo National Park

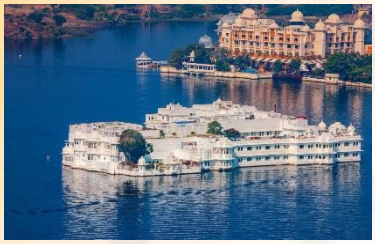


Pushkar Lake

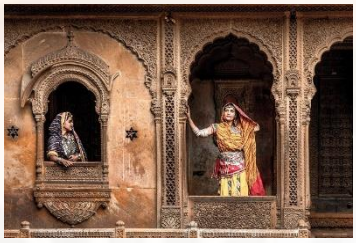
Tourism Focus: Rajasthan

Rajasthan: Land of Kings

Jewels in the desert crown: Rajasthan's major attractions are like precious gems, each with its unique brilliance. Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, is known for its pink-hued buildings and rich cultural heritage. The Hawa Mahal, Amber Fort, and City Palace are just a few of the city's treasures. Udaipur, with its romantic lakes and palaces, is often called the "Venice of the East." The Lake Palace, City Palace, and the serene boat rides on Lake Pichola are enchanting experiences. Jaisalmer, situated in the heart of the Thar Desert, is renowned for its golden sandstone architecture. The Jaisalmer Fort, Patwon Ki Haveli, and the desert safaris are major draws. Jodhpur, with its blue-painted houses, is dominated by the majestic Mehrangarh Fort. The Umaid Bhawan Palace and Jaswant Thada are other highlights of this vibrant city. Pushkar is famous for its annual camel fair and the only Brahma Temple in the world. The town's spiritual aura and the bustling bazaars make it a unique destination.



The Lake Palace



Patwon Ki Haveli



Jaswant Thada

A feast fit for royalty: Rajasthan's cuisine reflects its royal heritage and arid landscape. This iconic Rajasthani dish consists of round wheat flour bread (baati) served with a spiced lentil curry (dal) and a sweet, crumbly mixture of wheat flour and sugar (churma). Laal Maas is a fiery Rajasthani mutton curry made with red chillies and spices. It's a must-try for those who enjoy spicy food. Ghevar is a popular Rajasthani sweet, especially during festivals like Teej and Raksha Bandhan. It's a round, disc-shaped dessert made from flour, sugar, and ghee. Mirchi Vada is a spicy snack where green chillies are stuffed with spiced potato filling, coated in gram flour batter, and deep-fried to perfection.







Best Things To Do In Rajasthan:

- **Zip Lining** – Go Zipping From One Cliff To Another
- **Safari** – A Rendezvous With The Wildlife Of Rajasthan
- **Hot-Air Ballooning**
- **Desert Camping**
- **Chokhi Dhani** – Have he Real Taste Of Rajasthan
- **Vintage Car Rally in Rajasthan**
- **Abhaneri Stepwell** – Admire The Stunning Architecture
- **Trekking** – Yes, The Desert State Has Hill Stations
- **Rural Pockets Of Rajasthan** – Explore he Village Life
- **Dune Bashing**
- **Elephants At Dera Amer**
- **Camel Safari**
- **Music Of Kalbeliya Tribe**
- **Motor Boating**
- **Horse Safari In Pushkar**
- **Kite Festival**
- **Bhangarh Fort**
- **Ajmer Sharif**

पर्यटन मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF TOURISM सत्यमेव जयते

Chalo INDIA

Incredible India - Rajasthan

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

India wins a historic double Gold at 45th Chess Olympiad

India has won a historic double Gold medal at 45th Chess Olympiad 2024.

- Arjun Erigaisi scored the first win of the match over Jan Subelj.
- The second win was scored by D Gukesh against Vladimir Fedoseev.
- R Praggnanandhaa defeated Anton Demchenko.
- Vidit Gujrathi drew with Matej Sebenik.

India won the match 3.5-0.5 against Slovenia, thus India secured a first-ever team Gold medal irrespective of the outcome of the last two boards.

D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi has also secured individual board medals on Board no.1 and 3 respectively.

India Women's team also won against Azerbaijan with the same score 3.5-0.5. They won a Gold scoring 19/22. Kazakhstan drew with USA, thus Indian Women have clinched a clear first place.

This is the first time in history India has won a Gold and what a fantastic way to win it in both events.



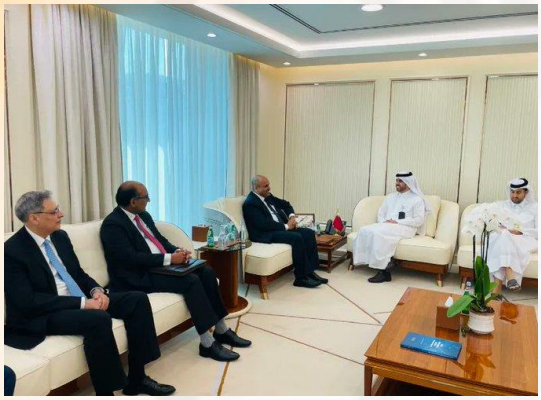
Bilateral Engagements

India and Qatar held 5th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)





Qatar and India held the 5th round of political consultations in Doha. The Indian delegation was headed by Secretary for Consular Affairs, Passports, Visas, and Overseas Indian Affairs at the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Arun Kumar Chatterjee while the Qatari delegation was led by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi. The consultations addressed avenues for deepening co-operation across various sectors, in addition to reviewing regional and international issues of mutual concern.



Secretary CPV & OIA met with MoCI Undersecretary

Secretary for Consular Affairs, Passports, Visas, and Overseas Indian Affairs at the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Arun Kumar Chatterjee met with H. E. Mohammed bin Hassan Al Malki, Undersecretary, Qatar Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI). Both sides reviewed the trade & investment relationship between India and Qatar and discussed ways to further strengthen them.

Secretary CPV & OIA met with Asst. Secretary of Ministry of Labour

Secretary CPV & OIA Shri Arun Kumar Chatterjee met Asst Undersecretary, Ministry of Labour, HE Sheikha Najwa bint Abdulrahman Al Thani today and discussed cooperation in the areas of manpower, employment and skills. He thanked Qatar side for the care and support provided to Indian workers and professionals.





Secretary CPV & OIA met with ICC, ICBF & IBPC leaders

Secretary CPV & OIA Shri Arun Kumar Chatterjee met leaders of Indian community organizations in Doha - Indian Cultural Centre, Indian Community Benevolent Forum & Indian Business and Professionals Council. He appreciated the work of all organizations for taking India-Qatar relations to newer heights.

Bilateral Engagements

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) of Qatar participated in the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) in New Delhi





The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) is participated in the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) in New Delhi, India, with a delegation led by CRA President Engineer Ahmad Abdulla Al Muslemani. The delegates participated in the Network of Women event, aimed at promoting women's leadership in ICT standardisation. WTSA-24 features various other events, including the Robotics for Good Youth Challenge, and ITU's Kaleidoscope academic conference, offering participants a diverse range of discussions and networking opportunities.

Ambassador met with Director General of Aspire Logistics

Ambassador of India H. E. Vipul met with Director General of Aspire Logistics Abdulla Nasser Al Naemi. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed aspects of sports cooperation and explored ways to support and develop it in the upcoming period. The meeting was attended by Sandeep Kumar, Deputy Head of the Indian Mission in Doha, and Hamad Yousef Al Obaidly, Director of Communications& Public Relations at Aspire.



ICAI Doha Chapter successfully hosted its 10th Annual Conference in Doha



ICAI Doha Chapter successfully hosted its 10th Annual Conference in Doha. The two-day event was attended by over 400 professionals across industries, focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, and emerging trends within the global startup ecosystem through 11 insightful sessions. The inaugural was graced by H. E. Vipul, Ambassador of India to Qatar, as the chief guest and Mr. Saleh Majed Al Khulaifi, Deputy Under-Secretary for Industrial Affairs and Business Development at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as the guest of honour. The distinguished dignitaries offered valuable insights into the evolving startup landscape, highlighting the growing trade relations between Indian and Qatar, emphasizing ICAI's role in promoting sound governance and ethical practices within startups.

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations





Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs and Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhiji on the occasion of the 155th birth anniversary at Indian Embassy and interacted with the members of Indian community.

Monthly Meeting with Ambassador





Ambassador addressed key consular and community-related issues of Indian nationals during monthly meeting. Embassy officials and ICBF representatives were present to offer guidance and support.

Special Consular Camp





Glimpses from the Special Consular camp at Kor Bay Residency, Al Khor. Embassy provided around 202 consular services at the camp.



National Unity Day

Ambassador H. E. Vipul administered Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge to Embassy officials commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and celebrating National Unity Day.

Media Corner

India in Local News

Qatar Tribune | GULF TIMES | The Peninsula | NewsTrail

IMF predicts India's GDP growth to moderate to 7% in 2024, 6.5% in 2025

India aims to double edible oil output

India's foreign exchange reserves cross $700 bn first time, says RBI data

Foreign investment in Indian stocks surges to record high with $2.84 bn inflows this week

India sees robust growth in trade with regional groupings

Supercharging credit market is key to India's $5tn goals

Air India buys 85 Airbus jets, eyes more Boeings on top of purchase of 500 jets

Ratan Tata put India's Tata Group on the global map

Indian conglomerates poised for $800 bn investment push: S&P

Maldives President introduces UPI payment service to boost economy

Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI is an instant real-time payment system for facilitating inter-bank transactions through mobile phones

Hyundai to launch India's largest $3.3 bn IPO next week

Bharat Utsav 2024

Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) presented a mega event named Bharat Utsav, showcasing India's cultural gala at Qatar National Convention Centre. The event was witnessed by many Qatari dignitaries, ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps of 18 countries, Indian embassy officials as well as Indian community leaders, and a large number of community members. Chief Guest of the evening was H. E. Mr. Vipul, Indian ambassador. He lauded the hard work, dedication of Indian community to showcase the event, and for celebrating the rich cultural diversity and tourism of different states in India. H. E. Mr. Vipul also released a souvenir to commemorate the occasion.











Ayurveda Day Celebrations 2024






Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), under the aegis of the Embassy of India, celebrated Ayurveda Day, in ICC premises. Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India, was the chief guest for the event. Dr. Fazeeha Ashakr, renowned Ayurvedic doctor was the keynote speaker for the topic "Ayurveda Innovation for Global Health".

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations at the ICC's Wednesday Fiesta





Painting exhibitions, thematic performances and colorful group dances captivated the audience at Indian Cultural Centre's Wednesday Fiesta held on 2nd October in ICC's premises. The occasion was celebration of 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

ICC Festival Bazaar





Indian Cultural Centre hosted ICC Festival Bazaar in their premises. Dr. Manisha Vaibhav Tandale inaugurated the bazaar. This bazaar enabled small-time Indian entrepreneurs to showcase their service offerings, such as handicrafts, leather products, imitation jewelry, readymade Indian traditional clothes to the larger community. Live Henna and food counters were an added attraction for the evening.

InspireHer – Empowering Women in Leadership Roles

ICC Youth Wing organized the Chapter-2 Symposium called InspireHer-Empowering women in leadership roles, conducted last Friday, 4th October 2024, at the ICC Bangalore Hall. Mrs. Asna Nafees, Principal of DPS Indian School, Wakra, led the session with her insightful presentation and Ms. Madhuri Doshi, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Banking, QNB, was the Chief Guest.





ISC India Open Cup Badminton Tournament

The Indian Sports Centre (ISC) concluded the India Cup Open Badminton Tournament, Season 2, which witnessed the participation of more than 500 contestants across 33 categories. Noted Indian former badminton player Prakash Padukone, the guest of honour, hailed the participants for their dedication and skill, particularly highlighting the promising talent displayed by younger players. Indian ambassador Vipul expressed his pride in witnessing the growing enthusiasm for sports within the Indian community in Qatar.

SHE Medical Camp

The Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) hosted a dedicated 'SHE Medical Camp' in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, exclusively for women. The event saw participation from over 320 women, including 100 domestic workers. Attendees benefited from consultations with specialists in General Medicine, Gynecology, ENT, Dentistry, Breast Screening, and Physiotherapy, along with key health tests for Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, and Vision. The event was graced by Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India, as the Chief Guest.



Embassy Notice Board

Upcoming Events and Announcements



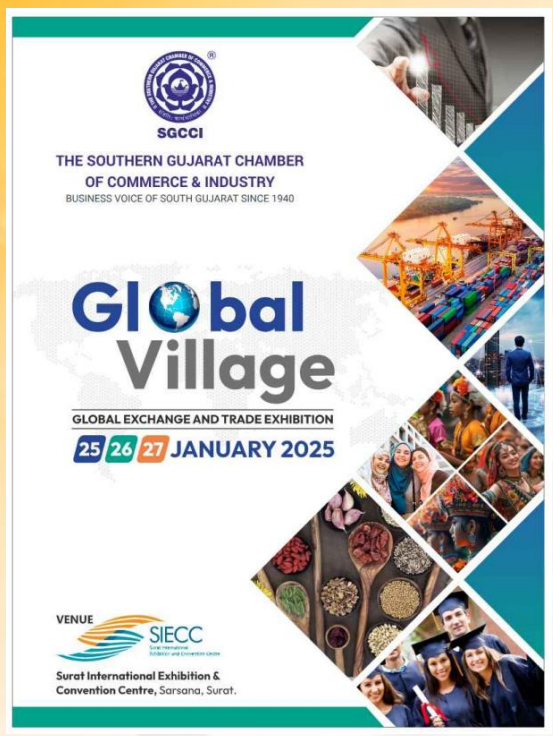






Embassy Notice Board

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 October 2024

S. No.	Service	No of Services Rendered
1	Passport & EC	7127
2	Misc. Consular Services	4569
3	Visa issued	494
4	OCI issued	17
	Total Services	**12207**

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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