

# Akhbar Al-Hind

## April 2024

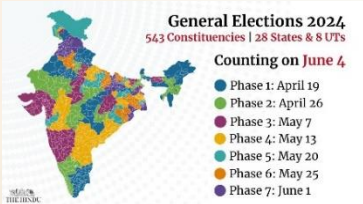


सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय राजदूतावास  
سفارة الهند  
Embassy of India  
Doha - Qatar

### Inside:

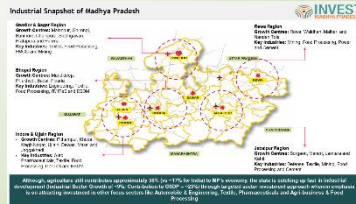
#### Indian General Elections



#### Focus Sector : FinTech



#### Focus State : Madhya Pradesh



#### Kashmir's Bilquis Mir to be jury at Paris Olympics



#### Investor Visas in India



#### Tourism: J&K



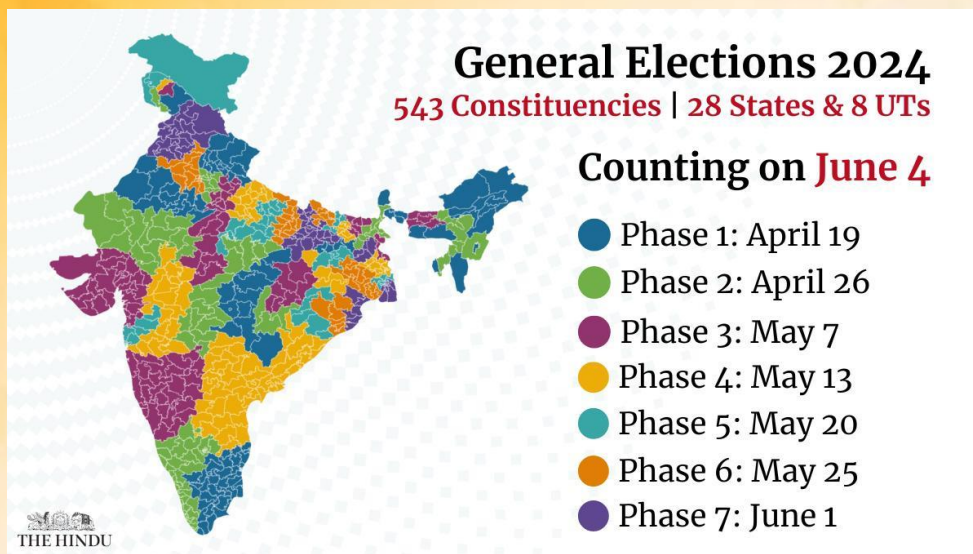
#### India's EV Market



#### Passage to India 2024



## The Largest Democratic Festival on the Planet General Elections 2024



The Election Commission (EC) unveiled the final figures for the first and second phases, indicating turnout rates of 66.1% and 66.7%, respectively.

### Phase-wise voter turnout data

The initial phase, covering 102 seats, occurred on April 19, while the subsequent phase for 88 seats took place on April 26. According to EC's data, a higher percentage of men voted in both phases compared to women. In the first phase, 66.2% of males and 66.1% of females exercised their voting rights. In the second phase, nearly 67% of males and 66.4% of females participated in the electoral process.

### Regional contrasts in voter turnout

The statistics unveiled Lakshadweep with the highest voter turnout (84.2%) in the initial phase, contrasting with Nawada in Bihar, which recorded the lowest turnout at 43.2%. Among the populous states, West Bengal led with 81.9% polling for three seats, followed closely by Tamil Nadu at 81.5%.

### Female turnout surpasses male in key regions

In the initial phase, 11 states and union territories, including West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, and Meghalaya, saw higher female voter turnout compared to males. In 43 out of 102 seats, women voters outnumbered men.

During the second phase, Manipur recorded the highest turnout at 84.8%, while Uttar Pradesh, with eight seats up for polls, witnessed the lowest at 55.2%. Nagaon in Assam recorded the highest voting percentage at 85%, whereas Mathura in Uttar Pradesh saw the lowest turnout at 49.4%. In 31 seats, female voters outnumbered males. Interestingly, all five seats witnessed a higher female turnout compared to males.

Source: Financial Express

## Indian exports reach a record US\$ 776.68 billion in FY24

India's exports reached a historic high of US\$ 776.68 billion in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2024, despite global challenges, according to provisional data released by the commerce ministry. While this represented a marginal increase from the previous year's record of US\$ 776.40 billion, it showcased resilience amidst a 3.11% contraction in merchandise exports, offset by robust services exports, which grew by 4.4% to a record US\$ 339.62 billion.



The overall trade deficit saw a significant improvement of 35.77%, declining from US\$ 121.62 billion in FY23 to US\$ 78.12 billion in FY24. [Source](#)

## Hyundai Motor Group plans expansion in India

South Korean auto major Hyundai Motor Group said it is looking to expand the annual production capacity across Hyundai and Kia brands in India to 1.5 million units per year, as part of its mid-to-long-term strategy in the country. Outlining the company's strategy for the India market, Hyundai Motor Group (HMG) Executive Chair Euisun Chung said the automaker plans to roll out more EVs, while also utilising the country as an export hub for the neighbouring countries. [Source](#)



## India's EV market expected to grow by 66% in 2024

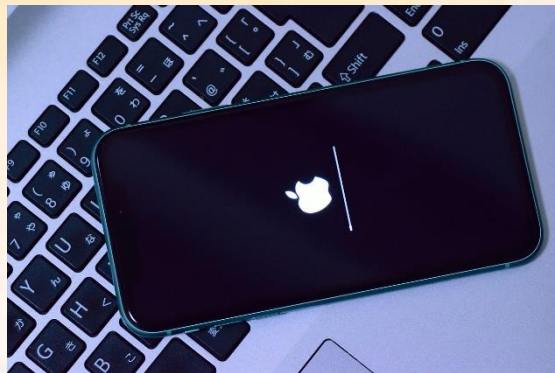
Electric vehicle (EV) sales in India are on the fast track, with a projected 66% increase this year, building on nearly doubling sales in 2023, states a recent report by Counterpoint. This surge is attributed to state subsidies boosting demand and the emergence of supportive infrastructure nationwide, reflecting a growing consumer interest in EVs amid climate change concerns. Projections for 2024 indicate that EV sales will constitute 4% of total passenger vehicle (PV) sales, driven by new market entrants and government incentives.



By 2030, EVs are forecasted to capture nearly one-third of India's PV market share, indicating a robust long-term growth trajectory, as highlighted in the report. [Source](#)

## Apple's iPhone exports from India surge

The export of iPhones from India has experienced a remarkable upswing, nearly doubling from US\$ 6.27 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23 to US\$ 12.1 billion in 2023-24. This surge is part of a broader trend in which total smartphone exports from India escalated from US\$ 12 billion to US\$ 16.5 billion during the same period. The US remains the largest importer of smartphones from India, with iPhone imports skyrocketing to US\$ 5.46 billion.



According to a recent report, Apple is discussing with Tata Group's Titan and Chennai-based Murugappa Group the manufacture of iPhone camera modules in India. While the company assembles iPhones in India, the camera modules are still imported. Local manufacturing of these modules in India will diminish Apple's reliance on the Chinese market. [Source](#)

## Real GDP growth climbed to 8.4% YoY in third quarter of the current fiscal year

India's GDP took a big leap on Leap Day in 2024: The country's remarkable growth rate of 8.4% in the third quarter of the fiscal year 20241 surpassed all expectations, as market analysts had penciled in a slower growth this quarter, between 6.6% and 7.2%. Deloitte's projected growth for the quarter was between 7.1% and 7.4% (as published in January 2024).



With substantial revisions to the data from the past three quarters of the fiscal year, India's GDP growth already touched 8.2% year over year (YoY) in these quarters.

## 53 Cleantech Startups Working Towards Making India's Future Cleaner & Greener

Inc42 has compiled a list of 53 cleantech startups, which have come up with out-of-the-box solutions to contribute to India's clean energy goals. The Indian cleantech startups have come up with new ideas to power existing clean energy technology and are doing their bit to save the environment in their own ways. From startups dealing with rooftop solar energy or those focusing on biomethanation technology to solve organic waste management to those providing solutions to clean and purify air and water, the list has it all. [Source](#)



## Investor Visas in India: A Comprehensive Guide



With its thriving and booming economy, extensively skilled workforce, and diverse industries, India has emerged as a global business hub and continues strengthening its position. The nation is the 5th largest economy in the world - according to the International Monetary Fund- with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$4.1 Trillion. Furthermore, S&P Global estimates that India's GDP will reach \$6.7 Trillion by 2031, making it the third-largest economy globally.

Policy reforms and infrastructure developments across diverse industries, including manufacturing, information technology, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and more, have fortified the consumer base. Thus, India's robust and expanding consumer market offers lucrative and resilient opportunities for businesses seeking to diversify operations. Moreover, the nation's abundant natural resources and skilled workforce ensure a streamlined establishment of operations, making it a hub of international commerce and trade.

Foreign nationals can apply for a variety of visas depending on the purpose of their travel. The visa application process has been streamlined and made hassle-free.

Foreign nationals entering the nation seeking to work in India can fall under two categories: those seeking to work in and from India and those desirous of setting up an industrial/business venture in India. Separate types of visas are granted to the two, with their unique set of tenure, requirements, and eligibility criteria.

### The Different Investor Visas in India

The two work-related visas for foreign individuals are namely:

- Business Visa, commonly known as a 'B' visa
- Employment Visa, widely referred to as 'E' visa

Employment visas are granted to highly skilled and/or qualified professionals drawing a salary of more than \$25,000 per annum (with the exception of ethnic cooks, language teachers, translators, and staff working in embassies) seeking employment with an Indian business or organisation. This visa is also given to those professionals already employed by an organisation that has an ongoing project in India.

If a foreign individual seeks to establish or explore the different avenues of establishing an industrial/business venture in India, the Business Visa is granted. It covers the buying and selling of industrial products, commercial products, and/or consumer durables. Furthermore, foreign individuals should opt for a business visa if they are visiting India:

- To attend technical, board, or general meetings to provide business services and/or support
- To recruit manpower from India for their businesses
- To consult for and/or participate in exhibitions, trade fairs, etc.
- To serve as a partner and/or function as one of the company's directors
- To transact business with suppliers or explore potential suppliers from India, including the evaluation or monitoring quality of the supply chain, placing of supply orders, etc., about the goods or services procured from India
- To monitor the progress of an ongoing project in India, to conduct meetings with Indian consumers, and/or to provide technical guidance
- To conduct pre-sales or post-sales activity on a project in collaboration with an Indian business
- To receive in-house training from a regional hub of a business located in India
- To conduct business tours for foreigners exploring investment opportunities in India

Business visas with multiple entry facilities are granted for 5 years and can be further extended for another 5 years.

## Conclusion

India's economy is growing rapidly and is expected to become the world's third-largest in less than a decade. Foreign investors should consider their business's potential growth and the minimum investment requirements to qualify for the various rights and privileges available for business visa holders.

It's highly advised that one keeps informed of the requirements and eligibility criteria of the different visas as requested by the Indian embassy or consulate. Ensure that all documents are organised, annotated, and prepared as per requirements to facilitate a seamless application and review process. Furthermore, applications for business visas should advisably be planned to avoid time conflicts and delays.

Business visas help investors and businesses explore and leverage India's unlimited growth potential and talent pool. With a burgeoning economy, talented entrepreneurs, and a robust infrastructure supporting various industries, India is poised to become the epicentre of global trade and business in the coming decades.

To apply for investor visas, please visit: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

For visa related queries at the Embassy, please contact: 44255716 / 44255777

## India - A Global FinTech Superpower



**India is amongst the fastest growing FinTech markets in the world. Indian FinTech industry's market size is \$50 Bn in 2021 and is estimated at ~\$150 Bn by 2025.**

The Indian Fintech industry's Total Addressable Market is estimated to be \$1.3Tn by 2025 and Assets Under Management & Revenue to be \$1Tn and \$200Bn by 2030, respectively.

Major segments under Fintech include Payments, Digital Lending, InsurTech, WealthTech

- The Payments landscape in India is expected to reach \$100 Tn in transaction volume and \$50 Bn in terms of revenue by 2030.
- India's digital lending market was worth \$270 Bn in 2022 and is expected to reach \$350 Bn by 2023.
- India is the 2nd largest Insurtech market in Asia-Pacific and is expected to grow by ~15X to reach \$88.4 Bn by 2030; India is poised to emerge as one of the fastest growing insurance markets in the world.
- The Indian WealthTech market is expected to grow to \$237 Bn by 2030 on the back of a growing base of retail investors.



3rd largest fintech ecosystem globally



Over 3000 fintech startups are registered by DPIIT in India



India accounted for 46% of all real-time transactions worldwide in 2022

### Industry Scenario

### Fintech Funding & Valuation

The Fintech sector in India has witnessed funding accounting to 14% share of Global Funding. India ranks #2 on Deal Volume. The Fintech Market Opportunity is estimated to be \$2.1 Tn by 2030. Indian fintechs were the 2nd most funded startup sector in India in 2022. Indian Fintech startups raised \$5.65 Bn in 2022. The total number of unique institutional investors in Indian fintech almost doubled between 2021 and 2022, rising from 535 to 1019 respectively.

### Digital Payments

From just 1 Mn transactions in 2016, UPI has since crossed the landmark 10 Bn transactions

- UPI recorded the highest ever volume of transactions in Mar 2024 – 13.4 Bn
- Daily transactions on the UPI platform can touch 1 Bn by 2025
- Digital Payments increased by 76% in transactions and 91% in value (2022)
- A pan-India digital payments survey (covering 90,000 respondents) revealed that 42% of respondents have used digital payments
- Acceptance of digital payments infrastructure has increased from 170 Mn touch points to 260 Mn touch points (increase of 53%)

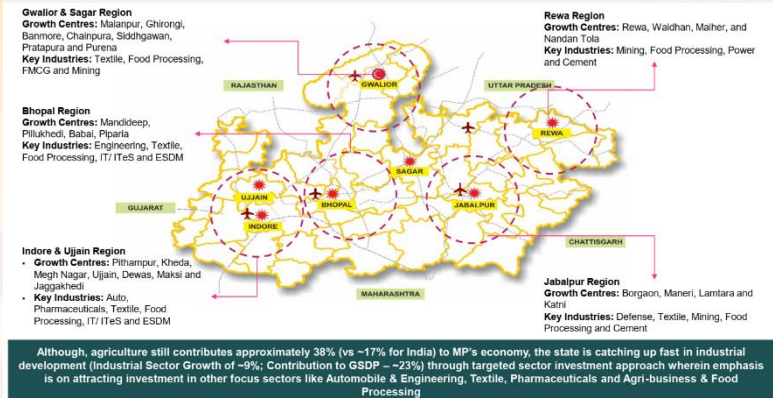
# State Economy – Madhya Pradesh

## Only diamond-producing state in India

Located in central India, Madhya Pradesh is popularly known as the 'heart of India' and is a beneficiary of mega infrastructure projects, with both North-South and East-West corridor crossing the State.

Madhya Pradesh ranked #8 in the Export Ecosystem Category in Export Preparedness Index 2022.

### Industrial Snapshot of Madhya Pradesh



The state offers excellent support infrastructure for industrial growth. With a total land bank of more than 1.25 Lakh acres, the State contains 96 industrial areas and the state has India's 1<sup>st</sup> green-field SEZ in Pithampur which covers total area of 1,114 Ha.

The State is well connected through a network of corridors, a dense road network of more than 3 Lakh km, 5 commercial airports operating 100+ flights and 6 major dry inland container depots (ICDs).

Madhya Pradesh ranks 1st amongst all the States in Swachh Survekshan 2022 by the Government of India. Indore, the State's commercial capital, was ranked the cleanest city for the sixth consecutive year.

Madhya Pradesh has a strong base of mineral resources and has the highest number of mines in the country. It is a major producer of limestone, copper, bauxite, manganese ore, phosphorite and iron ore.

Home to 11 agro-climatic zones and more than 45 Lakh Ha of irrigated land, Madhya Pradesh is the leading producer of foodgrains, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits. Investors can find business opportunities in Madhya Pradesh across various domains including food processing, textiles, automobiles, renewable energy, logistics & warehousing, defence, IT and pharmaceuticals.



Leading producer of manganese ore and major producer of phosphorite, bauxite, limestone, and copper



Largest producer of orange and garlic, and 2nd largest producer of foodgrains, rapeseed and soybean



Asia's thickest coal seam coalfield in Singrauli



## Over 420,000 tourists visit Asia's largest tulip garden in Srinagar, breaking all previous records



Over 420,000 visitors have visited Asia's Largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar in 30 days since its opening. Nestled between Dal Lake and Zabarwan hills, Asia's largest Tulip garden has over 1.7 million tulips of 73 varieties this year. And it remains one of the main attractions for the tourists visiting the Valley in the spring season.

## Formula 4 Racing Debuts In Srinagar



Supercars zoomed along the 1.7 km track, from Dal Lake to Nehru Park, marking Kashmir's first-ever Formula 4 car racing event.

The Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India, affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), in collaboration with the Indian Racing League and the Kashmir state tourism board, debuted Formula 4 car racing in Srinagar on March 17. This groundbreaking event, held against the backdrop of snow-clad peaks, aimed to promote tourism in Kashmir and ignite a passion for motorsports among local youth.

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



पर्यटन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
TOURISM

## Jammu & Kashmir



The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is a great tourist destination. Picturesque and enchanting, Kashmir is cradled high in the lofty green Himalayas and hailed all over the world for its incredible natural beauty. Surrounded by mountain peaks, lush green valleys, glistening lakes, temples and spectacular Mughal-era gardens, it has inspired poets through centuries.

In winter, Kashmir takes on a white glow, covered in soft snow and skiers making a beeline for its famous slopes. And in summer, as the snow melts, and the flowers in the meadows bloom, it resembles an artist's canvas. Meanwhile, Jammu lies on the banks of the pristine Tapi river. It is dotted with hundreds of temples, to scores of religious structures set in picturesque surroundings, Jammu is the ideal site to soak in spiritual vibes.



### Things to do in J&K:

- Shikara & Gondola Riding
- Trekking in Kashmir
- Skiing & Mountaineering
- Paragliding
- River Rafting
- Fishing & Angling
- Wildlife & Bird watching
- Horse Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Religious retreats
- Kashmiri Tea & Cuisine
- Camping & Shopping
- Hill stations & Heritage sites
- Jeep Safari & Golfing

To explore more and exciting packages please visit: [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)



# The Rise of Participative Sports in India

Participative sports have carved a niche in India's vibrant sports culture, transcending the conventional boundaries of stadiums and formal competitions. From the manicured greens of golf courses to the bustling streets echoing with gully cricket cheers, with the excitement and agility of net and wall sports like Tennis, Badminton, Pickleball, and the adrenaline-fueled atmosphere of marathon routes, these games have become more than just physical activities – they have evolved into community-building endeavors. The economic impact of these sports extends beyond ticket sales and merchandise, encompassing various sectors. Organised participative sports market is more than INR 1000 Cr (\$Mn 120) in India.

Marathons are at the forefront of the participative sport in India. The emphasis on fitness, coupled with the thrill of completing a marathon, has inspired many to adopt healthier lifestyles. Over 2 million registered runners participate in the marathons annually in India. Long-distance running has become a phenomenon, going beyond the realm of just sporting events to embody a culture of fitness, community, and social responsibility. Many marathons are organized around social causes, turning the sport into a platform for fundraising and creating awareness. Participants often run not just for personal achievement, but to contribute to various social causes. Another form of running is Obstacle Course Running which has emerged as a popular and exhilarating fitness trend in India. From 2028, Los Angeles Olympics onwards, Obstacle Racing is becoming an Olympic sport.

## THE RISE OF PARTICIPATIVE SPORTS IN INDIA

group<sup>m</sup> ESP

Golf, once considered an elite sport, has witnessed a paradigm shift in India. It is no longer confined to exclusive clubs and has expanded its reach to enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds. Public golf courses and training academies have mushroomed across the country, inviting people to experience the precision and serenity of the game. With an expected number of 1 million golfers in India, the game is making the rounds in the business ecosystem as well. Corporate golf tournaments, charity events, and golf resorts are providing platforms for both seasoned players and novices to engage in the sport while building relationships.

Cricket in India is not just a sport; it is a passion, a religion, and a cultural phenomenon. Tennis ball cricket or Gully cricket is played in every nook and corner of our country. It is more than just a game; it is a societal adhesive that brings communities together and serves as a breeding ground for future cricketers. The launch of Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) T10 will provide a platform for countless hidden talents to step into the limelight. With a threefold mission of identification, development, and promotion, this league is set to become a catalyst for nurturing grassroots-level cricketers. The

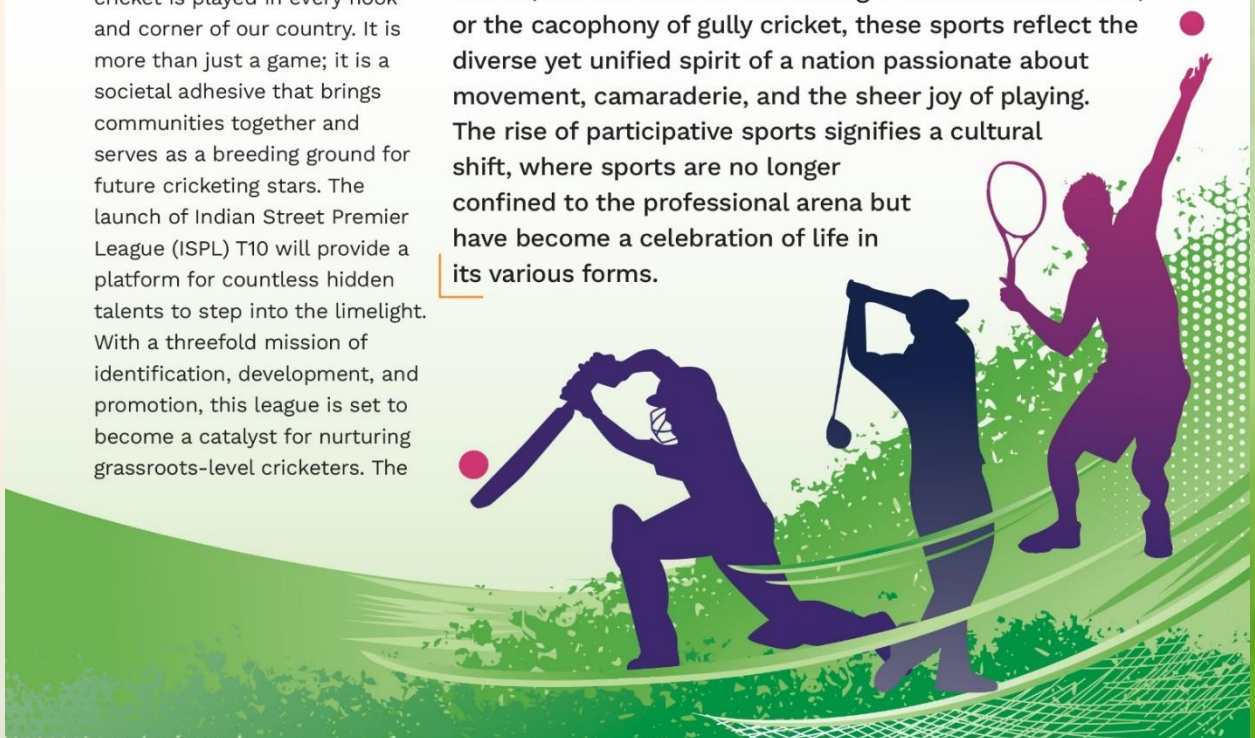
league is supported by legends of the game and film stars who have played a pivotal role in inspiring millions of people across the country. Some of the key names include Sachin Tendulkar, Ravi Shastri, Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Ram Charan, Suriya and others.

Other major participative sports in our country are net and wall sports like Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, Pickleball and Volleyball. These sports disciplines have gained popularity in India, adding diversity to the country's sports landscape. As they generate considerable interest, we find an increasing number of enthusiasts

taking them up too. Net and wall sports in India have evolved beyond the status of recreational activities to become serious avenues for competition and professional careers. The development of infrastructure, increased awareness, and the success of Indian athletes on the global stage contribute to the growing enthusiasm for these sports across the country.

Participative sports are also breaking gender stereotypes with increasing levels of participation by women. Initiatives like women-centric clinics and tournaments are contributing to the rise of female involvement in the sport.

**Participative sports in India are not just about athleticism; they are about fostering inclusivity, breaking barriers, and building communities. Whether it is a quiet day on the golf course, the exhilaration of crossing a marathon finish line, or the cacophony of gully cricket, these sports reflect the diverse yet unified spirit of a nation passionate about movement, camaraderie, and the sheer joy of playing. The rise of participative sports signifies a cultural shift, where sports are no longer confined to the professional arena but have become a celebration of life in its various forms.**



## New India at work in diverse sports arenas



Ambassador HE Mr. Vipul felicitated D. Gukesh during his visit to Doha in October 2023, to attend the Qatar Chess Masters



Gukesh D becomes the 2nd Indian after Vishwanathan Anand to win the prestigious FIDE Candidates tournament.

Corporal Amar Singh Devanda of the Indian Air Force is part of the Indian Ultra Marathon team which bagged a Gold medal at the 24-hour International Association of Ultrarunners Asia & Oceania Championships in Canberra, Australia. He set a new national record while covering 272.537 kms in 24 hrs. 🇮🇳

Press Information Bureau - PIB,  
Government of India Rajnath Singh



**ARCHERY WORLD CUP**  
MEN'S TEAM RECURVE - SHANGHAI 2024

FINAL

🇮🇳 **5-1** 🇰🇷

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>SILVER</b>	<b>BRONZE</b>
Dhiraj Bommadevara Pravin Jadhav Tarundeep Rai	Kim Je-deok Kim Woo-jin Lee Woo-seok	Lin Zih-siang Tai Yu-hsuan Tang Chih-chun

## Paris Olympics: Bilquis Mir from J-K becomes first woman to represent India as jury member, calls it 'proud moment'

Bilquis Mir from Jammu and Kashmir is set to become the first woman of India to represent the country as a jury member at this year's Summer Olympics, which is to be hosted by Paris from July 26 to August 11, 2024.

Mir's appointment as a jury member for the Paris Games was official conveyed through a letter from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

"Bilquis Mir, water sports promoter, developer, athlete, jury member of Indian Kayaking and Canoeing association has been nominated as the member of the jury to officiate at the Paris Olympics games. She is the first person from India to be appointed as a jury member at the Paris Olympics," the IOA stated in the letter to the Jammu and Kashmir administration.



[Source](#)

India this Month

## Eid Greetings



Embassy of India

Doha

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Press Release

Eid-al-Fitr Greetings by Prime Minister

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today extended warm greetings to H.H. Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, H.H. Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, PM/FM H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and the people of State of Qatar on the auspicious occasion of Eid-al-Fitr.

2. In his messages, PM Modi mentioned that Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr remind people of the values of compassion and togetherness. He recalled his recent visit to the State of Qatar and looked forward to further elevating and strengthening of the bilateral relationship in the coming years. PM Modi also thanked the Qatari leadership for their steadfast support to the large Indian community in the country.

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi extended warm greetings to H.H. Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, H.H. Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and the people of the State of Qatar on the auspicious occasion of Eid-al-Fitr.

## Ambassador meets QNA Director General

HE Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Mr. Ahmed bin Saeed Al Rumaihi met with HE Ambassador of India to Qatar Mr. Vipul and Counsellor (Political & Information) Mr. Gyanveer Singh.

The meeting discussed aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of media.



## Akasa Air commences operations between Mumbai and Doha



Akasa Air commenced operations to and from Doha, connecting Mumbai, with four non-stop flights a week. The inaugural flight from Mumbai's Shivaji Maharaj International Airport received a warm welcome at Hamad International Airport. Dignitaries at the ceremony included Indian ambassador HE Mr. Vipul, Qatar ambassador to India, HE Mr. Mohammed Hassan Jabir al-Jabir, and senior executives from Hamad International Airport and Akasa Air.

### Ambassador attended a session, organised by FICCI

FICCI organized an exclusive interaction with H.E. Mr Vipul, Indian Ambassador to Qatar wherein the members interacted with the ambassador and sought out the opportunities to further trade relations between India and Qatar.



### Ambassador attended Iftar at Georgetown University

Dean of Georgetown University-Qatar invited the ambassador of India H.E. Mr. Vipul to the Iftar, where H.E. Mr. Vipul met Indian students and hear their perspectives on international relations and plans for future.

## Passage to India - 2024



Indian Cultural Centre under the aegis of Embassy of India, in collaboration with Qatar Museum, held three-day cultural extravaganza, Passage to India 2024 from 7-9 March at Museum of Islamic Park. State Minister and President of Qatar National Library, HE Dr. Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari was the Chief guest.



Minister of State at the Ministry of External Affairs of India Shri V. Muraleedharan addresses the 'Passage to India' and stresses the cultural connect and people-to-people ties between the two countries.



## Suhoor 2024

Embassy of India & Indian Business & Professionals Council (IBPC) organized a Suhoor on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Government officials, diplomats, business leaders and Indian community members attended. A presentation was made on **'Make in India'** highlighting investment opportunities in sectors including renewable energy, semiconductors, infrastructure, etc.



## Special Consular Camp



Around 200 consular services were provided during the Special Consular Camp held at Kor Bay Residency - Al Khor. Embassy shall continue to organize such special camps across Qatar.

## Monthly Meeting with Ambassador



Ambassador HE Mr. Vipul addressed consular and related issues of around 40 Indian nationals in monthly meeting with the community. Embassy officials and ICBF office bearers were also present to provide guidance.

## India in Local News



**Apple's India iPhone output touches \$14bn**

**ADB upgrades India's growth forecast**

**Adani Green developing huge 30 GW renewable energy plant in Gujarat**

**India's Modi plans to open 19 diplomatic missions**

**FII and FPIs inflow in India likely to stay strong in FY25**

**World moving towards recession but Indian economy expanding, say experts**

**India emerges as offshoring hub with growth in office leasing: Knight Frank Report**

**India has the opportunity to lead the world in eco-tourism: Experts**

**Kannada language added to Vatican News feed**

**World's biggest poll kicks off as India begins voting**

**India EV sales to rise 66% this year**

**India to boost social spending, making country into manufacturing hub**

**India launches first home-grown gene therapy for cancer**

**US firm aims to start electric air taxi trials in India**

## Joint Secretary in charge of Gulf at MEA Aseem Mahajan, visited IBPC Qatar.



Ambassador of India to Qatar Shri Vipul, and Joint Secretary in charge of Gulf at MEA - Govt. of India Shri Aseem Mahajan, visited IBPC Qatar on 13 Mar 2024. They had a brief discussion with Team IBPC and Indian businessmen in Qatar to understand how IBPC and its members could help in enhancing trade partnerships, investment cooperation, energy partnerships, cultural affinity, people-to-people ties, strategic investments and partnerships in the field of technology & education between Qatar & India.

The interactions covered, among other matters, four significant growth segments between India and Qatar, viz bilateral trade of around \$20 billion, investment cooperation, strong and vibrant Indian diaspora, and multi-faceted partnerships in energy trade & energy security, which includes supply of 7.5 Million Metric Tons Per Annum LNG from Qatar to India for 20 years commencing 2028.

## Ambassador met with Indian Fishermen in Qatar



Ambassador HE Mr. Vipul interacted with the Indian fishermen, mostly from Tamil Nadu, in an event organised by the Embassy in partnership with ICBF, QTS and ICC. 250 Food Kits were also distributed on this occasion

## International Women's Day

On 2nd March 2024, Indian Cultural Centre, under the aegis of the Embassy of India celebrated 'International Women's Day' in their premises. ICC Women's Forum planned and executed this event. Mr. Gyanveer Singh, Counsellor (Political and Information) at the Embassy of India, was the Chief Guest for the evening. The event garnered huge response from the Indian diaspora and specially women.



3 guest speakers, Dr. Rasha Al-Zaman, Mubarak Al-Nuaimi and Dr. Ambika Anand, enlightened the audience with their thoughts and knowledge. Various cultural team carried out cultural performances on this occasion.

## Iftar at ICC



Indian Cultural Centre under the aegis of Embassy of India conducted Iftar in their premises on 25th and 26th March 2024. ICC's Ashoka Hall was decorated and lit to celebrate this holy occasion. Ambassador of India to Qatar, H.E. Mr. Vipul, spoke about the importance of this holy month and wished everyone a healthy and happy Ramadan. The officials from various ministries including the Ministry of Interior blessed the event with their attendance.

## Blood Donation Camp at Asian Town

ICC Youth Wing in association with Hamad Medical Corporation and Grand Mall, Asian Town hosted a Blood Donation Camp on 5th April, 2024. The event witnessed an outstanding turnout from the community, during this holy month of Ramadan. The official inauguration was done by Shri Harshvardhan Patel, First Secretary, Embassy of India.



## Eid Bazaar & Mehndi Night



The Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) conducted Eid Bazaar & Mehndi Night on 7th, 8th & 9th April 2024. His Excellency Mr. Vipul, Ambassador of India to Qatar, inaugurated the celebration. Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India graced the event by his presence on 8th April 2024. There were vibrant stalls of handicrafts, leather products, imitation jewelry, readymade Indian traditional clothes and delicious Indian food. In addition to the shopping delights, the bazaar also featured live henna stations.

## ICBF hosts Mass Iftar at Labour Camp to Mark 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



In celebration of its 40th Anniversary and the blessed month of Ramadan, Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) hosted a grand Mass iftar at the Al Muftah Labour Camp. The event was attended by approximately 1200 laborers and invited community leaders. The chief guest for the evening was HE Ambassador Mr. Vipul.

# Upcoming Events and Announcements

Embassy Notice Board

**UP INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
Date : 25 - 29 September, 2024  
Venue : India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida

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**KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME**

Ministry of External Affairs of India invites Applications for the landmark 75th Edition of the KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME for Indian Diaspora Youth

Dates : 07 July – 27 July 2024

Last Date of Application: 31 May 2024

For more information & to apply, kindly visit <https://kip.gov.in/>

DiasporaEngagementDivision | DiasporaDiv\_MEA | knowindiaprogramme\_mea

**LABOR DAY Rang Tarang 2024**

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024, FRIDAY 5PM, ASIAN TOWN

INDIAN COMMUNITY BENEVOLENT FORUM Under the aegis of EMBASSY OF INDIA, Qatar



सत्यमेव जयते  
Embassy of India  
Doha

## IMPORTANT NOTICE/ADVISORY ON FRAUDULENT CALLS

It has been brought to the notice of the Embassy that some fraudsters are spoofing Embassy's Numbers to make calls aimed at cheating people. Such caller claims to be an employee of the Embassy and seeks personal information i.e. name, date of birth, credit card details, passport number etc. The caller may also try to extort money from Indian nationals by *inter alia* claiming that there are errors in their passports, visa forms, immigration forms etc., which could be rectified by paying money, and at the same time warning that the so called errors, if not rectified, could result in deportation of the individual to India or their imprisonment in Qatar. In some cases, these fraudsters have also falsely claimed that they received such privileged information from the Embassy or other authorities in India.

2. Embassy of India, Doha confirms that NO Official from the Embassy makes any telephone/ mobile call to seek personal information. It is advised that members of the public should not entertain any such suspicious telephone calls made in the name of Embassy of India. They are also advised not to reveal any personal information or transfer any money in response to such calls. Such matters may be brought to the notice of the Embassy by email at [cons.doha@mea.gov.in](mailto:cons.doha@mea.gov.in).

Indian Council for Cultural Relations | Embassy of India Doha | Ministry of AYUSH

**Announcement of 104 ICCR Scholarship slots under the AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for the Academic Year 2024-25**

The Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India is offering AYUSH scholarships under the following schemes for undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. courses related to Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy in Indian Universities/Institutes/Colleges.

The applicant is required to apply for the above scholarship Schemes online on A2A portal. <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/>

The last date for uploading the application on the portal by the applicant is 31 May 2024.

**LEGAL CELL**

FOR YOUR LEGAL QUERIES & SUPPORT  
**ICBF OFFICE, IICC THUMAMA**  
BEHIND TEYSEER PETROL STATION

SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY 6.30PM - 9.30PM  
1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH 3.30PM - 5.30PM

CONSULTATION THRU' APPOINTMENTS ONLY

FOR APPOINTMENTS:  
ZAREENA AHAD : +974 7701 2808 | ABDUL RAOOF : +974 3032 2730

INDIAN COMMUNITY BENEVOLENT FORUM Under the aegis of EMBASSY OF INDIA, Qatar

**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 **19<sup>th</sup> 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 April 2024**

S. No.	Service	No of Services Rendered
1	Passport & EC	7,160
2	Misc. Consular Services	3,968
3	Visa issued	486
4	OCI issued	19
<b>Total Services</b>		<b>11,633</b>

**Apex Bodies**

Website: [ICC Qatar](http://ICC Qatar)  
[iccqatarcons@gmail.com](mailto:iccqatarcons@gmail.com)  
 Tel No.: 4468 6607



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सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय राजदूतावास

سفارة الهند

Embassy of India


Doha - Qatar

### Embassy of India Doha, Qatar


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