

Politics & Democracy

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UPEIDA is completing its expressways in record time and gathering feathers in its cap while UPNEDA spreads the use of new and renewable energy sources to drive growth



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INDIA NAHI DEKHA TO KYA DEKHA



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Old Wine with a New Flavour

The Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 was recently launched. But is it the same as the 2015 Policy?

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The Digital India Programme was launched on July 1, 2015 by the Prime Minister of India with a vision to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.



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Azerbaijan Airlines will resume direct flights between Baku and New Delhi as of August 9, in partnership with Zeal Global Group.



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Connectivity to Ambaji approved by Cabinet

New Rail Link will also provide alternate route between Ahmedabad and Abu Road

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the construction of Taranga Hill-Ambaji- Abu Road new rail line to be constructed by Ministry of Railways at an estimated cost of Rs.2,798.16 crore.

The total length of the new rail line will be 116.65 kms. The project will be completed by 2026-27. This project will generate direct employment during construction for about 40 lakh mandays. In line with Prime Minister's vision of a New India, the project will enhance connectivity and improve mobility leading to overall socio economic development of the region.

Ambaji is a famous pilgrimage destination and is one of the 51 Shaktipeeths in India that attracts millions of devotees every year

from Gujarat, other parts of the country, and from overseas. The construction of this line will facilitate easy travel for these millions of devotees. Further, the devotees visiting the Ajitnath Jain temple (one of the 24 holy Jain Tirthankaras) at Taranga Hill would also benefit from this connectivity. This railway new line between Taranga Hill- Ambaji- Abu Road will connect these two important religious spots with the main railway network.

The line will facilitate faster movement of agricultural and local products and also provide improved mobility of the people in the region within the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan and also to other parts of the country. The project will provide alternative route for existing Ahmedabad-Abu Road railway line.

Internet Exchanges in Durgapur and Bardhaman

To improve quality of Internet and Broadband services in West Bengal and nearby regions

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India vision to connect every Indian with open, safe, trusted and accountable internet, two new Internet Exchange points (IXP) of NIXI at Durgapur and Bardhaman have been inaugurated. It's an initiative under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) vision 1000 days.

The first Internet Exchange of the state at Kolkata is also run by National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). It is now expanding its footprint in the state by launching the two new Internet Exchange Points at Durgapur and Bardhaman. The launch of these new NIXI internet exchanges in the state will contribute to the enhancement and improvement of Internet and Broadband services at local level and in neighbouring regions. The internet service providers connecting at these points will benefit as their broadband services to their end users will improve, bringing about a change in the lives of the people of the region. Opening of these new IXPs will benefit every sector of the state ranging from health, education, agriculture, startup, ecosystem to MSMEs & other business verticals. Accessibility and convenience will increase for citizens in terms of availing government benefits and improving quality of life. The new Internet Exchange nodes from NIXI are certain to boost the state's Internet ecology.

To improve the overall Indian internet ecosystem and give internet users access to it at a low cost with improved speed, NIXI plans to install such internet exchanges in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in the near future. All Internet Service Providers are invited by NIXI to establish peering at any of its nodes and support the domestic Internet ecosystem. Taking Digital opportunities to tier 2 / 3 cities is an act of faith for Narendra Modi Government.



India Stack Knowledge Exchange 2022

A virtual event bringing together more than 5000 participants from 53 countries for knowledge exchange

A 3-day virtual event on India Stack Knowledge Exchange kick was part of the Digital India Week 2022 celebrations. The event was an opportunity to showcase India's most significant contribution to the Digital world - the India Stack, which is a unified software platform to bring India's 1.4 billion population into the Digital Age. This programme had participation from across the globe. The objective was to give an orientation to the basic building blocks of India Stack, which is driving Digital Transformation in India. Indiastack.global was launched by the Prime Minister of India. It is a single repository of all major projects on India Stack.

Setting the context of the 3-days' programme in the inaugural session, Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MeitY, Government of India, spoke of the challenging yet rewarding journey of the country's Digital Transformation in the last eight years. The journey has fruitfully resulted in India's leadership in Digital technologies and its experience in implementing Digital transformation projects

at population scale. Shri Rajesh Gera, Director General, National Informatics Centre, elaborated on the Aadhaar and mobile as the two services that have enabled good governance to grow and reach the end-user, whether in rural or urban area, for ease of living. Shri Abhishek Singh, President and CEO, National e-Governance Division, welcomed all distinguished

speakers, while reiterating the fact that each speaker was a pioneer and real practitioner, having implemented Digital Transformation projects at population scale in the country.

The first session was on India Stack's prime 'product', the Aadhaar. Aptly titled 'Building Aadhaar', it had distinguished speakers who spoke of the evolution of Aadhaar considering all challenges of the diverse population, and overcoming these challenges. Aadhaar has enabled ease of living for the citizens, especially the most marginalized and deprived class through seamless delivery of subsidies, benefits, and other services under various state welfare schemes. Aadhaar has also been the foundation of multiple Building Blocks. More than 17 transactional stacks have been launched pan-India for Digital Identity, Payments, Data Empowerment and Open Ecosystems.

The second session on 'UPI: Leading Digital Payment Ecosystem in India' highlighted on Digital India initiatives, which has ensured inclusive democratized solutions at population scale, keeping the concerns of privacy, consumer protection and potential risk management. The distinguished Speakers spoke about UPI being the path-breaking innovation in digital payments and how wallets have revolutionized how people pay in the country.

A parallel session brought to the participants the achievements of India in the Education sector through

Technology Stack. The National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) is interoperable so that all stakeholders, including private players, public players, students, teachers, parents, are productively engaged in the learning trajectory. Also, the framework is designed to have lifetime records so that the learnings can be leveraged in the future. The learning journey will include anganwadi, schools, skills and higher education, all working in tandem, which would enable provide seamless progression of a student from pre-school to graduation.

The last thematic session was on Paperless Governance and Data Empowerment. The significance of Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) was suitably highlighted as a strategy for data empowerment towards economic wellbeing for all citizens of India; so, under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), the accounts are online and the interoperability is through RuPay Debit Card or Aadhaar enabled System (AePS). The KYC / e-KYC formalities are now much easier. DEPA enables data protection, sharing, consent and privacy. Citizens can seamlessly and securely access their data and share it with third party institutions. The panel also discussed India Stack's highlight, the API Setu aimed at good data governance, and which enables quick and transparent software integration with the other e-Governance applications and systems.

NITI Aayog Welcomes **Parameswaran Iyer** as Its CEO



NITI Aayog welcomes Shri Parameswaran Iyer as its CEO. With over 25 years of experience in the water and sanitation sector, Mr Iyer spearheaded the implementation of the India's flagship \$20-billion Swachh Bharat Mission, which successfully delivered access to safe sanitation to 550 million people. "Honoured and humbled to have been given the incredible opportunity to serve the country again— this

time as CEO, NITI Aayog. I am deeply grateful to Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi for another chance to work under his leadership towards a transformed India," Mr Iyer said. A 1981-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Mr Iyer has worked with both the public and private sectors. He was Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in New Delhi during 2016–20.

Dwarka Expressway

The first elevated urban expressway in India will be operational in 2023

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has said Dwarka Expressway, also known as the Northern Peripheral Road in Haryana portion, is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India. In a series of tweets he said Dwarka Expressway will reduce pressure on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (part of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of Golden Quadrilateral) and arterial roads that experience severe traffic congestion, primarily from the commuters of West Delhi. He said 50%-60% traffic on NH-8 will be diverted onto the new expressway, thereby improving traffic movement towards Sohna Road, and Golf Course Road. Once operational in 2023, it shall immensely help reducing the air pollution in Delhi-NCR as well, he added.

Shri Gadkari said Government under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is actively prioritizing the development of World Class Infrastructure across all the corners of country and paving the path for 'Prosperity through Connectivity'. The Minister said it is a 16-lane access-controlled highway with provision of minimum 3-lane service road on both



sides, The Expressway connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana is being developed at a total cost of Rs 9,000 Crore with total length of 29 km out of which 19 km length falls in Haryana while the remaining 10 km of length is in Delhi

Shri Gadkari said Dwarka Expressway would have 4 multi-level interchanges (tunnel/underpasses, at-Grade Road, Elevated Flyover & Flyover above Flyover) at major junctions including construction of longest (3.6 km) and widest (8 lane) urban road tunnel in India. The expressway begins from Shiv Murti on NH-8 (Delhi-

Gurugram expressway) and ends near Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, through Dwarka Sector 21, Gurugram border and Basai, he added. The Minister said the development of this prestigious project plays a pivotal role in the plan to decongest the capital city of Delhi. Once the Dwarka Expressway is completed, it would provide direct access to upcoming India International Convention Centre (IICC) in Sector 25 of Dwarka and will also provide an alternate connectivity to IGI Airport through shallow tunnel. He said the state-of-the-art Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) like Advanced Traffic Management System, Toll Management System, CCTV Cameras, Surveillance etc. would be part and parcel of this upcoming world class corridor. Shri Gadkari said Dwarka Expressway will have a massive feat of tree transplantation with 12,000 trees transplanted. He said the project is also an engineering ace that includes a 34 meter wide 8-lane highway, a first of its kind being constructed on a single pier. The project is estimated to consume 2 lakh MT of steel (30 times of steel used in Eiffel Tower) and 20 lakh cum of concrete (6 times of concrete used in Burj Khalifa) for its construction.



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MODERNISING UTTAR PRADESH

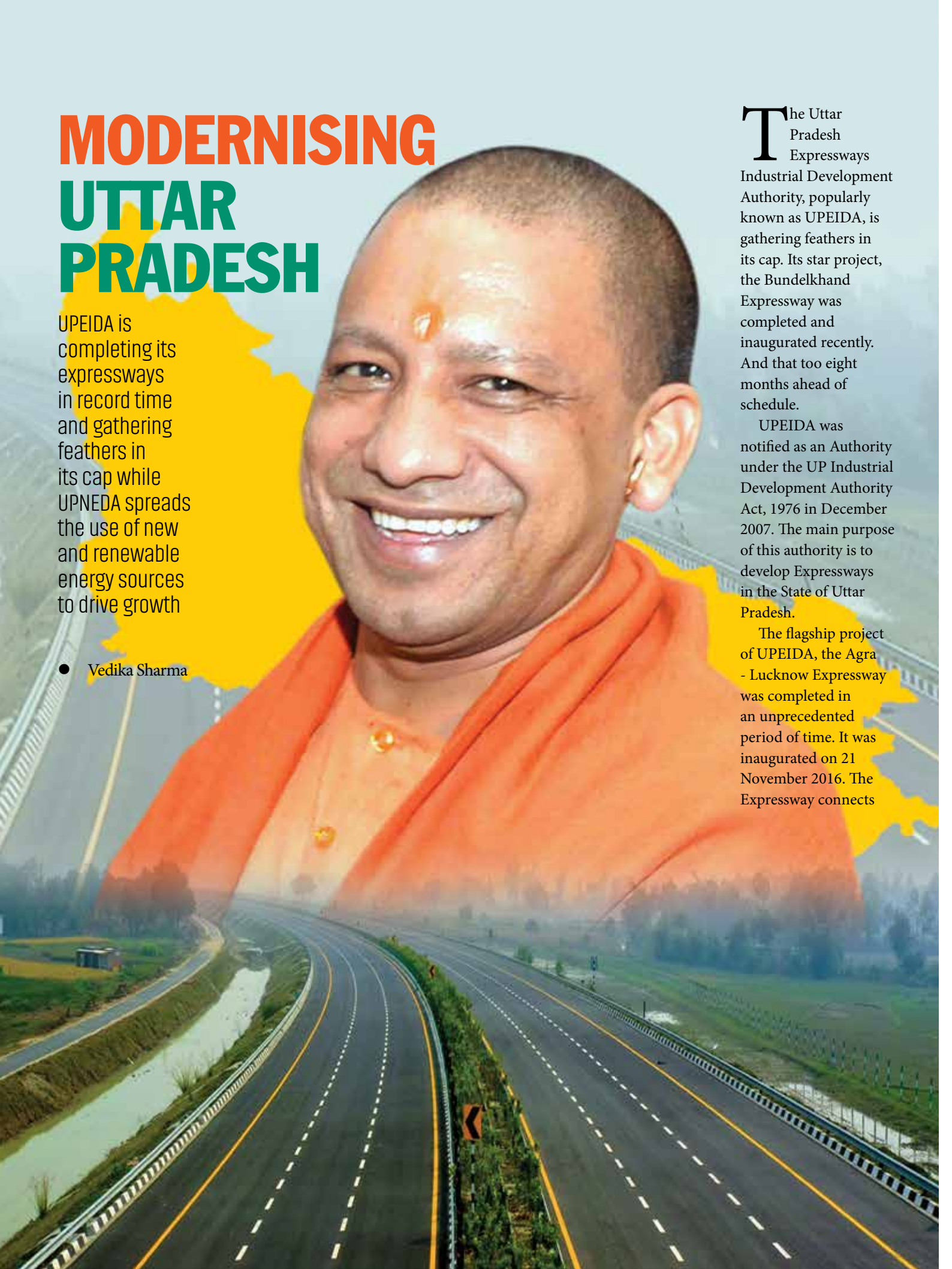
UPEIDA is completing its expressways in record time and gathering feathers in its cap while UPNEDA spreads the use of new and renewable energy sources to drive growth

● Vedika Sharma

The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority, popularly known as UPEIDA, is gathering feathers in its cap. Its star project, the Bundelkhand Expressway was completed and inaugurated recently. And that too eight months ahead of schedule.

UPEIDA was notified as an Authority under the UP Industrial Development Authority Act, 1976 in December 2007. The main purpose of this authority is to develop Expressways in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

The flagship project of UPEIDA, the Agra - Lucknow Expressway was completed in an unprecedented period of time. It was inaugurated on 21 November 2016. The Expressway connects





the State Capital with Agra and to New Delhi from there via the Yamuna Expressway.

The Bundelkhand Expressway links the Chitrakoot area of UP, bordering Madhya Pradesh, with the National Capital through the Agra – Lucknow Expressway. This Expressway is expected to trigger faster development of the Bundelkhand region.

Besides the Bundelkhand Expressway, UPEIDA has completed two other Access Controlled Expressway Projects – the Purvanchal Expressway Project and the Gorakhpur Link Expressway. These are conceived as critical high speed access controlled expressways linking the Eastern and Southern regions of Uttar Pradesh with Lucknow, the State Capital and New Delhi.

The Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj will provide a high speed corridor between the Eastern, Northern and Western parts of Uttar Pradesh, connecting these regions with New Delhi.

Agra – Lucknow Expressway

The Agra-Lucknow Expressway is a Greenfield Access Controlled Expressway project. It is a 302 Kilometre long project with six lanes. However, the Expressway is expandable to eight lanes with necessary structures

for the expansion already in place.

The expressway starts at the inner ring road in Agra and ends at State Highway 40 in Lucknow, passing through Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etawah, Auraiya, Kannauj, Kanpur Nagar, Hardoi, and Unnao districts along the way. One can now travel from Lucknow to Agra in 3 hours and in another 2.5 hours one can reach New Delhi via the Yamuna Expressway.

Wayside amenities have been provided on both carriageways. In the direction from Lucknow to Agra, these amenities are located at a distance of 75 km and 198 km from Lucknow. On the return journey, the wayside amenities are available at 101 km and 28 km from Agra. Essential facilities such as large parking areas, public toilets, food court, dhaba, motel and dormitories for rest, and fuel stations are available at each of these Wayside Amenities.

A lot has been done for the safety and security of traffic. This includes-

- An Advance Traffic Management System
- 50 CCTV cameras and 10 Speed and Number Plate Detection Radar cameras have been strategically placed along the length of the Expressway. These use the Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (APNR) to check speeding. E-challans are issued depending on the average

speed of vehicles between the toll plazas at Agra and Lucknow.

- Stray animals are caught and removed to prevent accidents

For patrolling and assistance to accident victims, UPEIDA has provided-

- 152 Emergency call boxes at every 4 km on either carriageway
- 9 ambulances of which 4 belong to UPEIDA and 5 belong to the toll collection agency
- 25 Patrolling Vehicles and 205 personnel patrol the length of the Expressway on a 24 x 7 x 365 basis. 15 of these vehicles and 125 personnel are part of the UPEIDA team.
- The UP Police Department also deployed 27 Dial 112 Vans on this Expressway
- A modern control room with state of the art facilities including a Video Monitoring and Incident Detection System and a GPS based ambulance service helps in achieving a response time of 4 to 11 minutes for emergency services.

The safety, security, and patrolling arrangements have reduced the incidence of accidents on the Expressway. The maintenance of the carriageways and reduction in travel time help to save on fuel and reduce the carbon footprint of the commuters.

Other outstanding features of the expressway include

- Ability of fighter aircraft to land and take off from the Expressway
- All illumination by solar energy
- Rainwater harvesting facilities and green belt on either side of the Expressway

The construction cost of the project was Rs. 11,527 crores (excluding the cost for acquiring the land). The project was completed in about 24 months instead of the expected period of 36 months and was inaugurated on 21 November 2016

Purvanchal Expressway

On 16 November 2021, the Prime Minister inaugurated another UPEIDA Project, the Purvanchal Expressway.

This expressway connects the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh to Lucknow. The Agra – Lucknow Expressway connects Lucknow to the western part of the state. Together these two expressways allows one to traverse the width of the state on a high speed corridor. The completion of this expressway also enables development in the remote parts of East Uttar Pradesh. The

expressways in the country. The 6 lane Expressway (expandable to 8 lanes) was completed with a project cost (including land) of Rs. 22,494.66 crore within the expected time line for the project. This is an achievement in itself since there were delays and setbacks on account of the Lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

UPEIDA divided the construction work into 8 packages, which were awarded to five different contractors on the EPC model. The expressway includes 22 Flyovers, 7 Railway-

India on 16 July 2022. The 296 km, 4 lane Expressway has been constructed along the lines of the Agra – Lucknow expressway with similar security, patrolling and other features. The Expressway starts at Bhadrakoo in Chitrakoot District, bordering the state of Madhya Pradesh and ends at the Agra – Lucknow Expressway near Kudrail Village. Along the way, the Expressway traverses 8 rivers - Bagen, Ken, Shyama, Chandawal, Birma, Yamuna, Betwa, and Sengar.

The Expressway has a right-of-way of 110 metres. Other than the security, patrolling and other features, on the 296 km stretch of this Expressways there are numerous bridges and like structures - 4 railway over bridges (ROBs), 14 large bridges, 6 toll plazas, 7 ramp plazas, 266 small bridges, and 18 flyovers to be precise. This Greenfield project was constructed under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction Model (EPC), in six packages, with an estimated construction cost of Rs. 14,850 crores.

Some of the most backward districts of the State are connected to the State Capital and the National Capital through this Expressway, raising hopes of progress and omni-directional development amongst all stakeholders.

socio-economic development along this project will be driven through agriculture, tourism, commerce and industrial development. Education would get a boost through construction of various educational institutes and centres along the expressway. Nine districts stand to gain through this socio-economic development and increase employment opportunities. These are Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau, Ghazipur.

The starting point is Village Chand Sarai, located at Lucknow-Sultanpur Road (NH-731), district Lucknow. The expressway ends after 340.824 km near village Haidaria on National Highway No.-19, which is 18 KM before the UP-Bihar border, in district Ghazipur, making it one of the longest

over-bridges (ROB), 7 major bridges, 114 minor bridges, 6 Toll Plazas, 45 vehicular-underpasses (VUP), 139 Light VUP, 87 pedestrian underpass and 525 Box culverts.

At the inauguration of the Expressway, the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath said, "The work of Purvanchal Express was completed in three years amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It will become the lifeline of the development of Eastern UP. Congratulations to the people of Purvanchal."

The CM said there is a focus on overall and inclusive 'vikas' across the state as part of a big development push.

Bundelkhand Expressway

The Bundelkhand Expressway was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of



- The project area can be economically and socially improved, with increase in agriculture, trade, tourist, and industrial income.
- An industrial corridor is planned to connect manufacturing units, development centres, and agricultural productive areas around expressway with the national capital, and other larger and more developed market centres. Travel time between New Delhi and Chitrakoot would now be 6 hours instead of 10
- Industrial Training Institutes, Teaching and Training Institutes, and Medical Institutes, among others can be constructed along the Expressway.
- The local Handloom industry, food processing facilities, storages, markets, and milk-based enterprises will benefit from this Expressway.

At the inauguration of the Expressway, CM Yogi Adityanath said, "This (Bundelkhand Expressway) will add a new dimension to the economy of Bundelkhand and that of Uttar Pradesh. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which the world faced for around 18 months, the 296-kilometre-long Bundelkhand Expressway was built within 28 months." The chief minister described the day as "historic" for the region and termed the expressway as the "axis of development of Bundelkhand".

Gorakhpur Link Expressway

The Gorakhpur Link Expressway is a 91 km long green-field project that will link Salarpur Village on the Purvanchal Expressway in Azamgarh District of UP with Jaitpur village in Gorakhpur. The 4 lane (expandable to 6 lanes) access controlled expressway was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in 2018 and the land acquisition commenced in February 2019. A total of 1,095 hectares would be acquired at an estimated cost of Rs 2,852 crores. As of 4 July

2022, 99.10% of the land has been acquired according to the UPEIDA website. The cost of construction of the Expressway is estimated to be Rs 3,024 crores including the cost for 2 Toll Plaza, 3 ramp plaza, 7 Flyovers, 7 major bridges, 27 minor bridges, 16 vehicular-underpasses (VUP), 50 Light VUP and 35 pedestrian underpasses. The project is under construction and work is being done by the contractors in 2 packages on the EPC model.

Awanish Awasthi, the CEO of UP Expressway Authority, told the media



that the proposed link would bring key "north-south" connectivity in Eastern UP where all major roads are aligned west-east. This new expressway link to Gorakhpur is also expected to criss-cross a new highway that the National Highways Authority of India is building from the PM's constituency Varanasi to Ayodhya. Thus, the two roads could offer connectivity between all the three holy towns of UP.

Gorakhpur is rapidly growing into a centre for economic development with many reputed business houses expressing an interest to set up manufacturing units there. Service providers, SMEs, Educational institutions and start-ups are flocking to Gorakhpur. The Gorakhpur Link Expressway is, therefore, important to augment the connectivity of the region

to the rest of the state and the country.

Ganga Expressway

The Ganga Expressway is an under construction green-field 6 lane (expandable to 8 lanes) access controlled project that is 594 km long. The project was approved by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on 29 January 2019 and the foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister on 18 December 2021.

The Ganga Expressway Project will be undertaken in two phases. Phase I of the project will connect Bijauli

village on NH-334 in Meerut district with Judapur Dandu village on NH-19 in Prayagraj District. The expressway traverses 12 Districts in the state viz. Meerut, Hapur, Hardoi, Amroha, Sambhal, Bulandshahr, Shahjahanpur, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Badaun, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj. On completion, it will become the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh.

In February 2021, Uttar Pradesh's state government decided to expand the project on either end- from Prayagraj to Varanasi and Meerut to Haridwar. This forms the Phase II of the project. The DPR of phase 2 of Ganga Express Highway / Expressway is currently in the pipeline. According to reports, Phase 1 of Ganga expressway will be extended from Prayagraj up to Balia (a distance of 314 Km) and in the western

UP, the expressway will be extended from Tigri to the Uttarakhand border a distance of around 110 Km.

Phase I of the Project is divided into 12 packages for faster execution. The packages have been taken up by two well established construction companies. The project follows the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) construction model. The expressway is proposed to be completed by 2024.

The expressway will be of 6 lanes and expandable up to 8 lanes. All the concrete structures will be constructed for an 8 lane width. The width of the dividing median is 15 m, which will enable 2 additional lanes to be constructed in this portion.

The Right of Way (ROW) throughout the length of project will be 120 m. The expressway has been designed for speeds up to 120 Km/h. A 3.5 Km long air strip is also being constructed for emergency take-off and landing of Indian Air Force planes on the expressway near Shahjahanpur.

Phase I of the project will include the construction of 7 Railway Over Bridges, 14 Major Bridge, 126 Minor Bridges, 381 Underpasses, 929 Culverts, 28 Fly Overs, 8 Diamond Interchanges, 2 Main Toll Plaza and 15 Ramp type Toll Plaza. For safety, there is a provision to construct concrete boundary walls

on both side of expressway. This will prevent unwanted stray animals, cattle and other wild-life.

The overall project cost is estimated to be Rs 36,230 crores of which Rs 9,500 is set aside for land. Acquisition of land for the project is almost complete.

1,850,000 trees will be planted on both sides of the expressway to take care of any environment related concerns. The project will boost socio-economic development in the region and provide a fillip to multiple sectors including agriculture, industrial development, tourism, and trade.

Other Projects

The website of UPEIDA lists the following Public Private Partnership projects at various stage. These had been allotted to the Authority a few years ago and would be taken up for completion in the future. The projects listed are:

1. 8 Lane access controlled Expressway from Greater Noida to Ballia
2. 8 Lane access controlled expressway on the right bank of Upper Ganga Canal from Sanauta Bridge (Distt. Bulandshahar) to near Purkazi (Distt. Muzaffarnagar) before Uttar Pradesh – Uttarakhand Border
3. Bijnora – Moradabad – Fategarh Expressway

4. Jhansi – Kanpur – Lucknow – Gorakhpur- Kushinagar Express way
5. Lucknow – Barabanki – Nanpara Link Expressway
6. Agra – Kanpur Expressway
7. Narora to 10 km before the Uttarakhand State Boundary

In addition, the UPEIDA is also instrumental in developing the UP Defence Industrial Corridor which is an important project for Central Government.

Driving growth the Renewables way

With the development of the state, its energy demand has been increasing steadily also. With limited conventional energy sources and their limited exploitation and increasing environmental pollution, energy based on new and renewable energy sources is being given high priority. Along-with biomass and small hydro-electricity, major projects based on MW solar energy are being established. Work in the State is being carried out towards grid connected Solar Power Generation and rooftop power generation. Progress is being steadily made towards the goal envisaged at the time of formation of the agency.

In April 1983, the Uttar Pradesh Government created the Non-Conventional Energy Development Agency (NEDA) under the Department of Additional Energy Sources as an autonomous institution. The institution has been renamed as "Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)". Since inception, the agency is also functioning as a nodal agency for implementing various schemes in the state.

The capacity in renewable energy sources such as solar energy, small-scale hydro-electricity and biomass-based electricity production is being developed in the state. Solar power plants of varying capacity are being installed for electricity generation.





Biomass-based co-generation in the state sugar mills and rice husk based-electricity generation projects are being encouraged. In addition to this, small-scale hydro-electric projects are being implemented in collaboration with private entrepreneurs.

Remote rural village electrification or mini-grid solar power plant plans are being conducted in villages without electricity or in villages with problematic electricity supply. Under the CM Samgra Gram Vikas Yojana and Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Solar Street Light Yojna, solar street light plants are being set up in selected villages. Under the Saubhagya Yojana in different un-electrified households solar power packs are being arranged. In the field of agriculture, small and marginal farmers in the terai and purvanchal region are benefitting from the installation of grant based solar pumps.

Creation of UPNEDA

Non-Conventional Energy Development Agency, U.P. (NEDA) was set up in 1983 as a registered society under the Department of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P. The Director of the Agency is responsible for formulation and Implementation of the programmes of development of Non-Conventional Sources of Energy in the State and work under the administrative control of the Secretary to the Govt.,

Department of Additional Source of Energy. The Agency has inter-Alia following functions:

- Propagation of the concept of renewable sources of energy and energy conservation.
- Promoting the use of renewable energy systems and means of saving energy in various sectors.
- Research and development primarily of applied nature in the field of renewable sources of energy and energy conservation.

The agency is working in the field of Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Bio Energy, Micro Hydel and Energy Conservation besides energy planning and other aspects of energy management.

UPNEDA undertakes important programs in the following fields:

- Solar Energy
- Bio mass Energy
- Micro Hydel
- Wind Energy

Solar Energy

In addition to a grid connected program, UPNEDA has the following major programmes under off-grid solar

1. Lohia Rural Housing Program at the Solar Power Pack

To meet basic requirements like housing for BPL families the Uttar Pradesh Government has launched

the Lohia Housing Scheme. Under this scheme, houses are provided a solar power pack that consists of 120 watt solar module and 120 ampere hour tubular plate capacity battery. Each house is provided with 2 bulbs of 3 watts, one bulb of 5 watts, a DC ceiling fan of 25-watt and a mobile charging point. The solar power pack operates the equipment for up to 8 hours per day and has a separate back-up of 2 days.

2. RO Water

UPNEDA is operating a solar RO water plant project to provide safe drinking water in state primary schools. Under this project, 1.1 kW Solar Power Plants are being set up at primary schools and 5 fans, 1 D.C. submersible pump and 1 R.O. Water plant of 50 liters per hour capacity are operated.

In the first phase of the project during 2014-15 the scheme was implemented in Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Kannauj and Etawah as a pilot project. In 2015-16 plants were installed in 10 districts of the state namely Hamirpur, Mahoba, Chitrakoot, Banda, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and Auraiya.

3. Mini- grid Scheme

Uttar Pradesh Government has promulgated its Mini-Grid Policy in 2016. This ensures power supply in rural areas by establishing Mini-Grid power plants based on New and Renewable energy sources through private developers.

Under this policy, subsidy is provided for the projects installed in villages identified by the Government. However Mini Grid projects can be set up in any self-identified village without subsidy. The Power generated from Mini Grids Plants is supplied for domestic, commercial and industrial use in the villages. Mini grid projects of aggregate 1.65 MW capacity in 75 villages of various districts have been installed under the policy, supplying power to 3758 households and 695 commercial establishments.



Bio Energy Program

Biomass has always been an important energy source for the country considering the benefits it offers. It is renewable, widely available, carbon-neutral and has the potential to provide significant employment in the rural areas. Biomass is also capable of providing firm energy. About 32% of the total primary energy use in the country is still derived from biomass and more than 70% of the country's population depends upon it for its energy needs.

Plenty of bagasse is available in the sugar mills of the state with a lot of potential for co-generation. UPNEDA started its efforts in 1994 as a catalyst/facilitator to set up power generation projects based on co-generation through bagasse available in the various sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh.

There are plenty of opportunities to set up various capacity power plants based on variety of techniques (gasification, co-generation and combustion) by using biomass other than bagasse. According to a TERI report, the state has an assessed potential of 3757 megawatt power generation through biomass. To set up such kind of projects, UPNEDA has undertaken region wise specific surveys to assess the actual potential of the projects.

The requirement of thermal and electrical energy of namkeen /bakery, factories, rice mills and cold storage

etc. can be met by setting up Gasifier Plants (from 40 kilowatt to 1 megawatt) based on gasification technique using mainly rice husk and udi biomass. To get some relief from increasing rates and unavailability of diesel/furnace oil and electricity, entrepreneurs are setting up gasifier plants with or without grant from the central government. About 40-44 megawatt capacity had been created till the end of 2013-14, by establishing gasifier plants by more than 171 industrial units of the state. UPNEDA has established 3 plants of various capacities in the state under this scheme.

Co-generation power projects of megawatt capacity based on combustion techniques using Rice Husk or other Agro-residues have been established in various industries. These projects are set up in those industries like pulp and paper mills where thermal energy (process steam) and electrical energy are required and they can fulfil thermal and electrical energy needs of such industries. Establishing non-bagasse based co-generation power projects is being promoted in the different paper mills in the state.

Micro Hydel

The total installed generating capacity of the state is 6160 MW out of which the share of hydro is 522.50 MW. Small hydro power project can

play an important role to overcome the power crisis by generating additional power. UPNEDA has been appointed as the nodal agency by MNRE, GoI for executing projects up to 25 MW. Implementation of identified SHP projects is being carried out by UPNEDA and Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam through private developers as per small hydro power policy 2009 of state government. Power generated from small hydro power projects can be used through grid network of UP Power Corporation Ltd. Or supply the power directly to the consumers (stand-alone) in remote village where no grid network is available.

UPNEDA has vast experience in identification, survey and investigation, design, implementation, operation and maintenance, as well as management of micro/mini/small hydro power projects. UPNEDA has completed 30 small hydro projects of total capacity 2095 KW, which are supplying electricity to 164 villages in far flung remote areas of Uttaranchal.

After creation of Uttaranchal as new state, the hydro power potential is now available with irrigation canals, rivers, dam toes etc. The state of Uttar Pradesh is endowed with many perennial rivers. Over the past hundred years, an extensive network of irrigation canals has been developed in the state, water is diverted from Ganga, Yamuna, Sharda, Sarju, Gandak, Ghaghra, Betwa rivers which flows from northern India discharging into Bay of Bengal. There is considerable potential for power generation at numerous canal falls and irrigation dams. The flow in the canals is mainly governed by the pattern of irrigation releases.

To harness this potential of canal falls/dam toes, UPNEDA is undertaking identification, surveying and preparation of feasibility and detailed project reports. UPNEDA has prepared ten prefeasibility and detailed project reports up to 3MW

capacity in the first phase.

Wind Energy Program

Wind energy stands at the top different sources of electricity generation through renewable energy. In our country at present total installed generation capacity is 35700 MW of which wind energy contributes about 68 percent.

National Institute of Wind Energy, GoI has expressed the possibility of power generation through wind energy at 50 meters and 80 meters with generation capacity of 138 MW and 1260 MW respectively. Wind force keeps on increasing simultaneously with the increase in height from the ground. Thus power generation also increases with increase in height.

For installation of Electricity generation projects through wind energy first of all assessment of wind force and Wind Power Density (WPD) is done for duration of 1-2 years. This process is known as Wind Resource Assessment. Figures of wind force and WPD recorded in one year at certain height (50m, 80m, 100m, 120m) are taken for installation of wind mast at any place. If at any place wind force of 4 m/s and WPD of 200 W/m² are recorded then wind energy program is said to be feasible and also it is appropriate for commercial power generation.

Wind Resource Assessment (WRA) by National Wind Energy Institute has begun to identify the wind energy programs in various districts of Uttar Pradesh. The districts where wind resource assessment has been done at 50 m height are-Lalitpur, Mirzapur, Raebareli, Farrukhabad, Agra, Etawah, Badaun, Jhansi and Sonbhadra. Districts where wind resource assessment has been done at 80 m height are:-Gonda, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Shahjahanpur and Lakhimpur. Details of survey conducted in concerned districts for wind force, site condition etc. is as

follows:-

Village Electrification Program

Government of India under take the electrification of all villages of the country by year 2009 and every house of the country by year 2012 under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidhutikran Yojna (RGGVY). Under this scheme Ministry of New & Renewal Energy (MNRE) is implementing the scheme of Remote Village Electrification Programme through Non-Conventional sources for those remote areas where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective.



NEDA has electrified 50 such remote villages earlier and 79 remote villages in the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 of different district of State through different models of solar photovoltaic home lights and solar street lights.

World Bank Sponsored Projects

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Where there is a will there is a way

According to Awanish Awasthi, the CEO of UPEIDA and the Chairman of the Department of Additional Sources of Energy, who is steering the

authorities to multiple successes, it is the political will that has made all the difference. He told the media some time back "The Chief Minister is very clear that expressways will bring a complete change in the infrastructure status of the state. They will open up the backward areas for industry, and improve connectivity. He has stressed on the importance of expressways repeatedly,"

The political will has ensured that there are no procedural or administrative delays in any of the Projects. The way continues to be shown by UPEIDA and UPNEDA under the able leadership of Awanish Awasthi.

Old Wine with a New Flavour

The Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 was recently launched.
But is it the same as the 2015 Policy?

● Asheesh Bhandari

The Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 was officially launched by the Chief Minister of Jharkhand at New Delhi. The State Government believes that development of the tourism sector will reduce unemployment in the State and contribute to economic development. The goal of this policy is to bring Jharkhand at par with other states in the field of tourism by 2025. Broad objectives of this policy are stated to meet this goal which seem to be the same as the Tourism Policy of 2015. This probably reflects the long term perspective of the state government in terms of goals, objectives and strategies. But if for some reason the goals are not being achieved as anticipated, strategies need to be tweaked. That's what the state government has done in the new policy of 2021.



Making land available

The Policy document of 2015 states that land identified for tourism development would be consolidated into a Tourism Land Bank under the Department of Tourism. The identified land belonging to the government would be transferred free of cost, while private land would be acquired by paying suitable compensation.

The District Collectors were authorized to release up to 10 acres

of Government land for tourism purpose to the Department of Tourism. Government land in excess of 10 acres would be transferred to the Department of Tourism by the District Collector with the approval of the Department of Revenue and Land Reforms.

The land would then be allotted to the private sector in a transparent manner and based on the techno-economic feasibility of the required tourism infrastructure.

The Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 changes this. Now all government land would be allotted to Industrial Area Development Authorities (IADA) of the Department of Industries. The IADA will strengthen and expand their land bank by identifying barren, unirrigated land which is not utilized by the government departments and corporations in their respective areas. The government land will be allotted to the Tourism Units as per the availability

and policy of the Department of Revenue, Registration & Land Reforms, Government of Jharkhand. Land Acquisition would be executed by a competent authority and the Department of Tourism will monitor and expedite the process.

Direct purchase of land for Tourism Enterprises will be done in accordance with the legal provisions and policies / guidelines of Department of Revenue, Registration and Land Reforms.

This modification ensures that going forward the land bank does not vest with the Department of Tourism. It is now rightly under the control of the IADAs. However the policy does not make clear what happens to the land already transferred to the Department of Tourism under the 2015 Policy.

Religious Tourism

Religious tourism is a thrust area for Tourism development in Jharkhand. Baba Baidyanath Dham temple at Deoghar, housing one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in the country, is an important tourist destination. The Deoghar Airport was recently inaugurated and marks an important milestone in the development of Tourism in the state. The state government intends to develop Parasnath, Madhuban, Itkhori and Basukinath on the lines of Deoghar. The 2021 Policy also talks of developing religious circuits like the Buddhist Circuit from Itkhori to Kauleshwari.

Eco-tourism

With more than 30% of the state

under forest cover, Eco-Tourism continues to be a thrust area in the 2021 Tourism Policy of the state. In the new policy statement, the government would undertake the development of Eco-circuits like the Latehar – Netarhat – Betla – Chandil – Dalma – Mirchaiya – Getalsud circuit.

An Eco-Tourism Advisory Board would be set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Jharkhand as the highest authority for all project approvals in eco-sensitive zones. This Board will comprise Secretaries from the related departments and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest cum Executive Director Barren Land Development Board.

Use of Public Private Partnership



arrangements to set up camping sites, the use of Forest Rest houses to accommodate tourists, and development of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks continue to be key objectives for this thrust area.

Cultural Tourism

Under this thrust area, the policy continues to endeavour to promote various fairs and festivals, traditional lifestyles, customs, dress, food habits and cuisines of Jharkhand.

The 2021 Policy proposes to develop an integrated tribal complex so that tourists can experience the culture, history, heritage, and cuisine of the tribes all in one place. Handicrafts of the



state would be promoted and marketing platforms will be developed together with the Department of Industries. Cuisines are to be promoted through food festivals and gourmet cuisine trails.

Rural Tourism

To promote its rich cultural traditions and customs prevalent in the various tribes of the state, the government continues to endeavour to develop rural tourism as an important thrust area. Rural tourism villages would be notified by the government, selected on the basis of the predominance of their traditional art and culture and proximity to existing tourist centres. Village Tourism Committees would be constituted in such villages to promote cooperation through self-help groups. For effective management and support “Rural Tourism Sub-committees” are proposed which will comprise Panchayati Raj Institution members.

The identified villages would be developed as model villages with suitable infrastructure and renovation of homes. For this purpose, tie ups with financial institutions for funds are proposed. The model villages would also promote local handicrafts, culture and cuisines. Linkages to artisan clusters and craft hubs would help in developing Rural Tourism Hubs.

Necessary steps for wide publicity and promotion of these rural tourism destinations would be taken by the Department of Tourism.



Adventure Tourism

The terrain and topography of Jharkhand are conducive to adventure tourism. Natural formation of large water bodies, hills, dense forests and enthralling terrain enable a number of adventure activities such as paragliding, hot air ballooning, rock climbing, trekking, gliding, water sports including river rafting, canoeing, and kayaking.

The Jharkhand Adventure Tourism Institute will continue to be the primary body to provide adventure tourism services and act as a training centre for local youth to act as Guides. Private sector involvement in adventure tourism would encourage the use of latest technologies and equipment.

The state government would develop a rescue system for adventure sports and other tourism related activities. This will include rescue equipment like recovery vans, medical support,

communications etc.

Water Sports and Amusement Parks

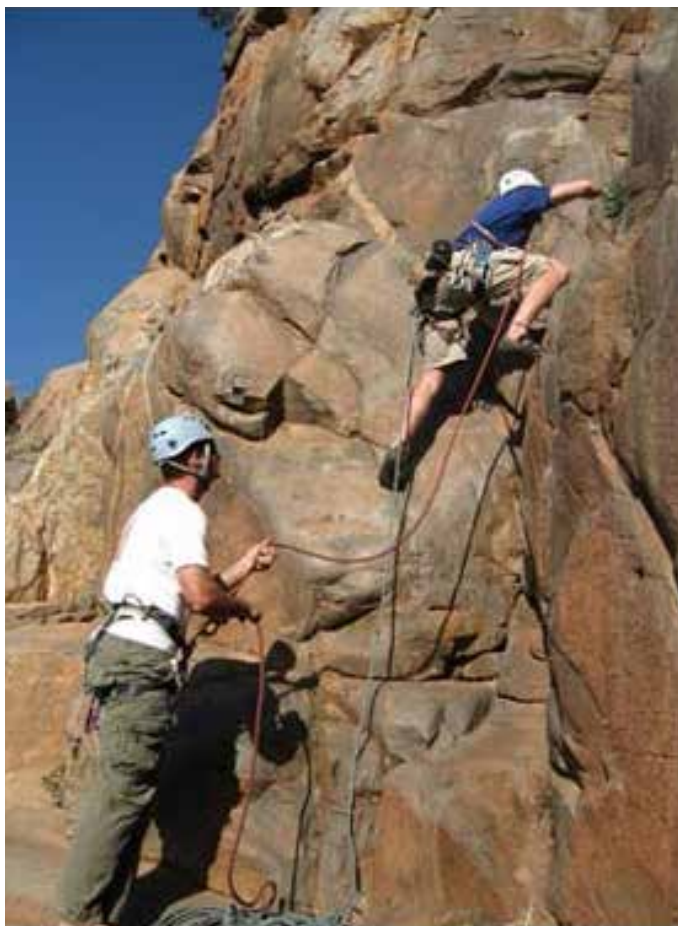
Tourist places suitable for Water Tourism such as dams, lakes and reservoirs will be identified. Private investors will be licensed to operate house boats, cruise boats, hover craft, fly boards, motor boats and to conduct water sport activities. Amusement Parks will be established to attract tourists.

Wellness Tourism

Wellness is a rapidly growing tourism segment. The government of Jharkhand plans to develop centres for wellness tourism to promote the state as a “Rest and Recuperate” brand. In consultation with the Health Department, hospitals and Ayurveda centres would be graded and listed. Holistic Therapy Centres that provide physiotherapy, Ayurveda, naturopathy, yoga and herbal treatment will be promoted. Events based on Spiritual, Medical, or Wellness Tourism would be conceptualized and promoted.

Weekend Getaway Tourism

A number of tourist spots in Jharkhand are within driving distance from major cities in neighbouring states of Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha. The state government has identified such spots and plans to aggressively



market and promote them on all media platforms. Infrastructure gaps, particularly road connectivity and last mile connectivity will be covered on a war footing.

The Prime Minister of India recently inaugurated the Deoghar Airport and other projects worth Rs 16,000 crores. A number of road projects are included in this package.

Heritage Accommodation

Old mansions and heritage buildings with distinctive façade and architectural features will be used as Heritage Accommodation. To ensure conservation and maintenance of the heritage buildings, support of the Archaeological Survey of India will be sought.

Mining Tourism

Mining Tourism is a popular concept in mineral rich countries around the world. Jharkhand being the centre for

mining of various minerals and metals in the country, can be the primary destination for Mining Tourism in the country. The 2021 Tourism Policy also plans to promote closed and abandoned mines as tourist destinations. Tie-ups with mining companies are in the pipeline. Mining tourism would showcase the mineral strength of the state and educate tourists about the mining and mineral-based activities. The school children, students of mining and geology, and mining enthusiasts would stand to gain from such tourism.

Jharkhand Tourism Home Stay Scheme

Home stays are popular among Budget travellers and those wanting to experience first-hand the way of local life. With the local populace being humble and welcoming, home stays are great options for travellers to Jharkhand to experience the local hospitality, customs, traditions, and local cuisine. The Jharkhand Tourist Home Stay

Scheme would not only augment the available accommodation facilities but also provide comfort for the tourists.

Homestay facilities will be approved by and registered with the Department of Tourism. The concerned service providers will be imparted basic training by the state government and provided financial assistance and incentives. The state government will promote the registered home stays on its website.

Fiscal Incentives

In its Tourism Policy of 2021, the Government of Jharkhand will provide fiscal incentives in order to:

- Stimulate the growth of the tourism sector for creating employment opportunities
- Provide incentives to attract investors
- Remove dis-incentives in the existing system

All fiscal incentives would be routed through the Single Window System of the Department of Industries.



Digital India Week

● Tarsh Sharma

The Digital India Programme was launched on July 1, 2015 by the Prime Minister of India with a vision to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. India's story of digital transformation is a story of Digital Innovation, Implementation and Inclusion. India has pioneered innovative digital projects, implemented transformational projects at population scale, and the benefits of various services and initiatives have percolated to the common man living in the rural hinterland, ensuring digital inclusion. The positive impact of this tremendous journey is being felt in all aspects, in the lives of Indian citizens, which is ensuring digital access, digital delivery of services and digital inclusion of all, based on technology that is sustainable, affordable and transformative.

Today India boasts of the world's 3rd highest number of Startups with new unicorns sprouting almost every week. During the pandemic, Digital India has played a significant role in the nation's resilient response. Digital technologies have enabled the Government to reach the remote parts of the country at the click of a button. Post the pandemic, India has emerged as the preeminent

nation in the use of technology for a resilient economy and governance.

To celebrate and showcase the work and achievements of Digital India, the Digital India Week 2022 was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Theme for the Digital India Week 2022 (DIW) was Catalysing New India's Techade.

During the programme, the Prime Minister launched multiple digital initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility of technology, streamlining service delivery to ensure ease of living and give a boost to start-ups. He also announced the first cohort of 30 Institutions to be supported under the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme..

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that the programme gives a glimpse of a continuously modernizing India in the 21st century. Through Digital India, India has exemplified how revolutionary the correct use of technology is for the growth of humanity. "I am glad that this campaign, which started eight years ago, has been expanding itself with the changing times", he said.

Remembering the conditions of 8-10 years ago, the Prime Minister said that from the situations of lines for birth certificate, bill payment,

ration, admissions, result and banks, India has removed all these lines by getting online. So many services like, life certificate, reservation, banking etc. have become accessible, fast and affordable. Similarly, through technology, under Direct Benefit Transfer, more than 23 lakh crore rupees have been directly transferred in the accounts of the beneficiaries, in the last 8 years. "Due to this technology, 2 lakh 23 thousand crore rupees of the country have been saved from falling into the wrong hands", he added emphasizing the role of Digital India in curbing corruption. Digital India has brought the government to the doorsteps and phones of the citizens. More than 1.25 lakh Common Service Centres and Grameen Stores are now taking e-commerce to rural India. Similarly, property documents for rural properties are being provided by use of technology.

On the use of technology during the pandemic the Prime Minister said that the power that Digital India has created in the country in the last eight years has helped India a lot in combating the Corona global pandemic. "We have transferred thousands of crores of rupees to the bank accounts of crores

of women, farmers, labourers of the country at a single click. With the help of One Nation One Ration Card, we have ensured free ration to more than 80 crore countrymen.” We have run the world's largest and most efficient covid vaccination and covid relief program. Through our Cowin platform about 200 vaccine doses have been administered and certificates given, said the Prime Minister.

“India's FinTech endeavour is truly a solution by the people, of the people, for the people. The technology in it is India's own i.e. by the people. The countrymen made it a part of their life i.e. of the people. It made the transactions of the countrymen easy i.e. for the people. 40 percent digital transaction at global level takes place in India. There is scale, security and democratic values in our digital solutions”, the Prime Minister said.

India's focus is on skilling, upskill and reskilling 14-15 lakh youths for Industry 4.0 in the coming 4-5 years. Be it space, mapping, drones, gaming and animation, many such sectors which are going to expand the future of digital technology, have been opened for innovation. Provisions like IN-SPACE and new drone policy will give new energy to India's tech potential in the coming years in this decade.

India is working on the target of taking electronics manufacturing to more than \$ 300 billion in the

next three-four years. India wants to become a chip maker from a chip taker. Investment is rapidly increasing in India to increase production of semiconductors”.

Initiatives launched:

During the DIW, various initiatives as mentioned below were launched.

Digital India Bhashini will enable easy access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access, and help the creation of content in Indian languages. The key intervention in building AI-based language technology solutions for Indian languages will be the creation of multilingual datasets. Digital India Bhashini will enable massive citizen engagement to build these datasets through a crowdsourcing initiative called BhashaDaan.



Digital India GENESIS (Gen-next Support for Innovative Start-ups). This is a National Deep-tech Start-up Platform, to discover, support, grow and make successful start-ups in Tier-II and Tier-III cities of India. A total outlay of Rs. 750 Crore has been envisaged for the scheme. The platform envisages impacting and consolidating 10,000+ tech start-ups over the course of the next 5 years, especially from Tier-II & Tier III cities. The start-ups will be equipped with the right tools and backed by a conducive infrastructure for starting and scaling up. Digital India GENESIS will pave the road for a more equal start-up ecosystem, one that evenly represents the aspirations of India's ambitious entrepreneurs for inclusive techno-socio-economic development of India.

Indiastack.global - a global repository of key projects implemented under India Stack like Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, Cowin Vaccination Platform, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), DIKSHA Platform and Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission. This offering of India to the Global Public Digital Goods repository will help position India as the leader in building Digital Transformation projects at a population scale and prove to be of immense help to other countries which are looking for such technology solutions.

MyScheme - a service discovery platform facilitating access to Government Schemes. It aims to offer a one-stop search and discovery portal where users can find schemes that they are eligible for.

Meri Pehchaan - a National Single Sign On for One Citizen Login. National Single Sign-On (NSSO) is a user authentication service in which a single set of credentials provide access to multiple online applications or services.

The C2S Programme aims to train specialized manpower in the area of design of semiconductor chips at Bachelors, Masters and Research levels,



and act as a catalyst for the growth of Start-ups involved in semiconductor design in the country. It offers to mentor at the organisational level and makes available State-of-the-art facilities for design to the institutions. This is part of the India Semiconductor Mission to build a strong design ecosystem in semiconductors.

India Stack Knowledge Exchange

India will get the Presidency of G20 in December 2022. She will also host the G20 Summit in 2023. One of the initiatives that could be shared

help in the formation of an India Stack Knowledge Exchange, which would serve as a collaborative platform and mechanism to replicate some of the digital initiatives.

The India Stack Knowledge Exchange witnessed participation from across the world. The objective was to give an orientation to the basic building blocks of India Stack, which is driving Digital Transformation in India. Indiastack.global is a single repository of all major projects on India Stack.

India Stack's prime 'product', the Aadhaar was showcased in the program. The session on Aadhaar

most advanced payment system with regards to digital payments by volume and value. The UPI was also showcased at the India Stack Knowledge Exchange.

The participants were informed of India's achievements in the Education sector through Technology Stack. The session highlighted the significance of the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) in terms of its inclusivity, privacy and security by design. The NDEAR is interoperable so that all stakeholders, including private players, public players, students, teachers, parents, are productively engaged in the learning trajectory. Also, the framework is designed to have lifetime records so that the learnings can be leveraged in the future. The learning journey will include anganwadi schools, skills and higher education, all working in tandem.

The Paperless Governance and Data Empowerment aspects were also showcased. The significance of Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) was suitably highlighted as a strategy for data empowerment towards economic wellbeing for all citizens of India. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), the accounts are online and the interoperability is through RuPay Debit Card or Aadhaar enabled System (AePS). The KYC / e-KYC formalities are now much easier. DEPA enables data protection, sharing, consent and privacy. Citizens can seamlessly and securely access their data and share it with third party institutions. The API Setu is aimed at good data governance and enables quick and transparent software integration with the other e-Governance applications and systems.

The Urban Stack covers various sub-programs such as the Smart Cities Mission, ULIP, DIGIT, and IUDX. The Smart Cities Mission is an ambitious project built around four Quadrant approaches of Information, Communication, Prediction and Management. It also includes three Ps of deployment - People, Policies &



globally is India's leadership in Digital Technologies and its experience in implementing Digital Transformation projects at population scale. There have also been requests received about India's contribution to the Global Digital Public Goods repository. The lessons from India Stack are available for the world to adopt. India Stack, is a unified software platform to bring India's 1.4 billion population into the Digital Age. The DIW 2022, therefore, included a three days' long orientation programme for this purpose. This was an event intended to bring together practitioners and Digital Transformation leaders to share their experience in implementing pioneering projects, which have percolated to the Indian citizens across the urban and rural landscapes of the country. This platform, in turn, would

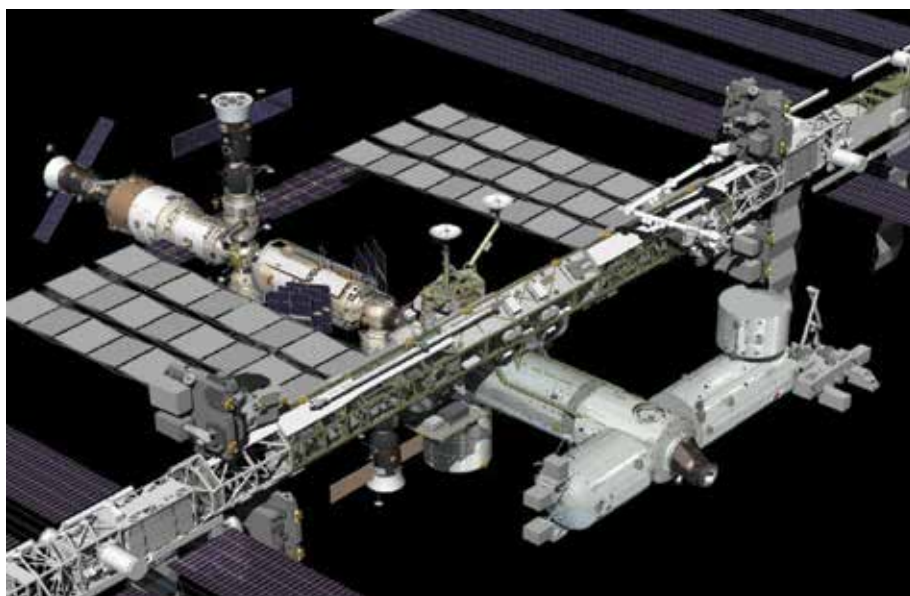
discussed the evolution of Aadhaar considering all challenges of the diverse population, and overcoming these challenges Aadhaar has enabled ease of living for the citizens, especially the most marginalized and deprived class through seamless delivery of subsidies, benefits, and other services under various state welfare schemes. Aadhaar has also been the foundation of multiple Building Blocks. More than 17 transactional stacks have been launched pan-India for Digital Identity, Payments, Data Empowerment and Open Ecosystems.

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a path-breaking innovation in digital payments and how wallets have revolutionized how people pay in the country. India's payment landscape over the last decade has developed into the

Processes, and Platforms. The mission seeks to transform 100 cities to provide the necessary core infrastructure and clean and sustainable environment to enable a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of "Smart Solutions". The Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) is about effective movement of goods, reducing logistics cost and time, providing real-time information and improving international competitiveness. The Digital Infrastructure for Governance, Impact and Transformation (DIGIT) enabled by India Stack has been implemented in over 1000 cities resulting in impact on 180 Million citizens. Indian Urban Data Exchange (IUDX) has been deployed in 18 cities, and has proved successful in solutions for bus occupancy with ETA (Surat), Safe routes and places (Pune), Multimodal transport (Surat), Efficient solid waste pick (Varanasi), Adaptive traffic lights (Agartala) and flood warning (Chennai).

Under the Technology Stack for e-Commerce are government programs such as the GeM platform built for procurement within the government sector, which manages around Rs 2.5 lakh crore worth of gross merchandise value. Also included in this stack is the Open Network for Digital Commerce platform, which is a coveted initiative for eliminating monopoly from the platforms by bringing in a completely open-source domain that provides a gateway to buyers and sellers between the platforms. The eWay Bill of the GST network has resulted into about 20–30% efficiency in logistics

The Space Technology Stack showcases ISRO's vision to harness space technology for national development, while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration. Indigenously developed space Technology applications in the areas of Satellite Communications, Navigation, Earth Observation, and Geospatial Data Dissemination are included in this stack. The indigenously developed regional navigation system of



India (NavIC), visualization system of India (VEDAS) and Indian storehouse for space-based weather and ocean data (MOSDAC) are crystallizing India's position as a global leader in space technology. SATCOM's application for e-Governance namely, Bhuvan, Bhoonidhi and Yuktdhara's solutions are part of this stack.

Still some distance to cover

There are three Vision Areas under the Digital India Program –

1. Digital Infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen

The objectives under this vision area are:

- Availability of high speed internet as a core utility for delivery of services to citizens
 - Cradle to grave digital identity that is unique, lifelong, online, and authentic to every citizen
 - Mobile phone and bank accounts, enabling every citizen to participate in the digital and financial space
 - Easy access to Common Service Centre
 - Shareable private space on a public cloud
 - Safe and secure cyber space
2. Governance and Services on Demand

The objectives under this vision area are:

- Seamlessly integrated services across departments and jurisdictions
 - Services available in real time from online and mobile platforms
 - All citizen entitlements to be portable and available on the cloud
 - Digitally transformed services for improving ease of doing business
 - Making financial transactions electronic and cashless
 - Leveraging Geospatial Information System for decision support systems and development
3. Digital Empowerment of Citizens

The objectives under this vision are:

- Universal Digital Literacy
- Universally accessible digital resources
- All documents / certificates to be available on the cloud
- Availability of digital resources / services in Indian Languages
- Collaborative digital platforms for participative governance

Clearly from the above, there are areas where work is yet to be completed. The work is rapidly in progress but will take some time to complete. We look forward to Digital India Week 2023!!

Azerbaijan Airlines to Resume Direct Flights between Baku and New Delhi



Azerbaijan Airlines will resume direct flights between Baku and New Delhi as of August 9, in partnership with Zeal Global Group.

Azerbaijan is currently seeing an increase in the number of travellers from India. With daily flights between Baku and New Delhi, the number of arrivals from the country is expected to grow further. "Right before the pandemic, India was among the top 10 countries we received travellers from. Since the opening of international borders between

the countries, India is once again placed at the top of this list. Azerbaijan is ready to welcome Indian travellers to enjoy picturesque places surrounded breath-taking nature, rich gastronomy, great venues and services for MICE events as well as weddings," said Florian Sengstschnid, Chief Executive Officer of the Azerbaijan Tourism Board.

Direct flights between the capitals of Azerbaijan and India will be operated twice a week: flights from Baku on Tuesdays and Fridays, and flights

from New Delhi on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Together with India, citizens and permanent residents of 101 countries can travel to Azerbaijan by air. To enter the country, they need to submit an official document issued by the relevant country (COVID passport) on complete vaccination or recovery from COVID-19. For Indian travellers, e-visa system is also in place with a possibility to obtain it within 3 days or hours depending on preference.

PM inaugurates Deoghar Airport; to provide direct air connectivity to Baba Baidyanath Dham

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various developmental projects worth more than Rs 16,800 crores in Deoghar today. Governor Jharkhand, Shri Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Shri Hemant Soren, Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, State ministers and people's representatives were among those present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that with the blessings of Baba Baidyanath, projects worth more than Rs 16,000 crore have been inaugurated and the foundation stone has been laid today. These projects are going to give a huge impetus to Jharkhand's modern connectivity, energy, health, faith and tourism.

The Prime Minister remarked that for the last eight years, the country has been working towards the objective of developing the nation through the development of its states. This thinking



has been paramount in the efforts to connect Jharkhand by highways, railways, airways, waterways, over the last eight years. All these facilities and projects will have a positive impact on the economic development of the state.

The Prime Minister said that Jharkhand is getting its second airport. This will tremendously ease travel for devotees of Baba Baidyanath. In the context of making air travel affordable for the common man through the UDAN scheme, the Prime Minister noted that the benefits of the efforts of the government are now visible across the country. About 70 new locations have been added through airports,

heliports and water aerodromes in the last 5-6 years under the UDAN scheme. Today, ordinary citizens are getting the facility of air travel on more than 400 new routes. More than 1 crore people have experienced very affordable air travel, many for the first time. The Prime Minister expressed happiness at the maiden flight from Deoghar to Kolkata and flights for Ranchi, Delhi and Patna would start soon. Work is on for airports in Bokaro and Dumka, he said.

The Prime Minister said along with connectivity, the central government is also focussing on the creation of facilities at important places related to faith and spirituality in the country. Modern facilities have also been expanded in Baba Baidyanath Dham under the PRASAD scheme. When a holistic approach guides the projects, new avenues of income come for various segments of the society and new facilities create new opportunities.



Emirates and Air Canada Form Strategic Partnership

Emirates and Air Canada today announced the signing of a strategic partnership agreement that will create more options for customers when travelling on the carriers' networks while also enhancing the customer experience throughout the journey.

Emirates and Air Canada intend to establish a codeshare relationship later in 2022 that will offer enhanced consumer travel choices for Air Canada customers to travel to the United Arab Emirates and to destinations beyond Dubai. Emirates customers will also enjoy an enhanced travel experience when travelling to Toronto or to key destinations across the Air Canada network. Customers will have the ability to book connecting travel between both airlines' networks with the ease of a single ticket, seamless connectivity at the carriers' respective global hubs and baggage transfers to their final destinations.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airlines said: "This is a significant partnership that will enable our customer's access to even more destinations in Canada and the Americas, via our Toronto and US gateways. It also opens up many new route combinations for travelers across Emirates' and Air Canada's extensive networks in the Americas, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. We are pleased to partner with Air Canada, one of North America's most established airlines and Canada's flag carrier and we look forward to jointly progressing on various areas to provide even better customer flight choices and experiences."

"As we continue pursuing our strategy of expanding our global reach in response to growing opportunities in VFR markets (Visit Friends and Relatives) that serve Canada's large multicultural communities, we are very pleased to form a strategic partnership with Emirates, a highly respected flag carrier of the United Arab Emirates with a hub in the vibrant city of Dubai. This strategic agreement will create network synergies, and Air Canada customers will have additional, convenient options when travelling between Canada and the United Arab Emirates as well as destinations beyond Dubai" said Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer at Air Canada. "We look forward to introducing Air Canada codeshare service on key Emirates flights, as well as adding the EK code on select Air Canada flights, and welcoming Emirates customers on our services later this year."

To further enhance the customer experience, the carriers will also establish reciprocal frequent flyer benefits and reciprocal lounge access for qualifying customers. Further details of the partnership and specific codeshare routes will be announced when finalized and will be subject to regulatory approvals and final documentation.

Malaysia Airlines Berhad Awarded IATA's Operational Safety Audit Registration

The airline renewed the globally accredited certification which is in effect until July 2024

Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAB) has successfully been awarded the International Air Transportation Association's (IATA) Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) registration for the 9th time, effective immediately until July 2024, following the completion of stringent audits conducted by the global aviation body's safety auditors on the airline.

MAB received its first IOSA registration in January 2006 and has since renewed the certification by consistently meeting the Operational Safety standards set by IATA; allowing it to maintain its long-standing position as an airline member of IATA and the oneworld alliance, where an active registration is one of the required conditions to become a member. The IOSA renewal audit was conducted in February 2022 by a team of five (5) auditors from Aviation Quality Services (AQS), an IATA-accredited Audit Organisation (AO) based in Germany. The audit was performed against 937 IATA Standards and Recommended Practices (ISARP) covering eight (8) key operational areas within MAB including Corporate Safety, Security, Flight Operations, Ground Operations, Engineering and Maintenance, Crew Training, Dispatch and Operations Control, and Cargo Operations.

Group Chief Executive Officer of Malaysia Aviation Group, Captain Izham Ismail said, "MAB's recertification of IOSA is testament to our commitment in achieving the highest level of safety through continuous and stringent reviews within our business operations, and enhancement of the processes and procedures in-line with the aviation industry's safety and regulatory framework. All the airlines within the Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) focus on providing quality services to its customers with 'safety' being the anchor in everything we do. Safety and security are in our DNA, thus it is our commitment to ensure safe and seamless operating environments for our workforce and the global communities we serve."

The IOSA programme is an internationally recognised and accepted evaluation system designed to assess an airline's operational management and control systems. For two decades, IOSA has become the industry benchmark in safety auditing, contributing to improving safety performance and providing extensive cost-saving measures for IOSA participating airlines.

Experience the Premium Interior Cabin with Malaysia Airlines' Refreshed B737-800 NG

Feel at ease 30,000 feet above the sky and travel sustainably with new leaner seats and innovative in-flight entertainment features

Malaysia Airlines has unveiled its newly refreshed B737-800 NG aircraft, which boasts a new and premium cabin experience with truly unique features including new seats, innovative in-flight entertainment – MHstudio, and refurbished interior that pays homage to Malaysian identity from the moment they board the flight.

The newly refreshed cabin is scheduled to take to the skies end of July 2022 and will be progressively rolled out to more domestic and regional destinations as more of the 38 refurbished aircraft are completed.

Group Chief Marketing and Customer Experience Officer of Malaysia Airlines, Lau Yin May, said: "We are thrilled to roll out the newly refreshed B737-800 NG, which will deliver future travel experiences through innovative features from seats to highly customisable inflight entertainment while staying true to our roots by incorporating Malaysian elements in the overall interior cabin design.

The cabin refurbishment exercise began in 2021, a bold step taken by the airline in response to feedback and suggestions received through customer surveys and various focus group sessions in 2020 to better understand the needs of our customers. This demonstrates Malaysia Airlines' commitment to adapt to changing consumer needs and in improving overall customer experience in the post pandemic era. We are pleased to share that our in-flight entertainment is a game changer offering extensive media content, including award-winning local and international movies and TV series, as well as in-flight shopping. All of these are done to give our guests a taste of the warmth and hospitality that Malaysia Airlines is known for whenever they travel with us."



With a fresh and premium cabin environment that features a bright and refreshing colour scheme that is unique to Malaysia Airlines' identity, the new interior design represents a progressive step forward. The airline's guests will notice an infusion of the iconic Malaysian and the national carriers' batik motif that is recognisable worldwide and has such deep representation of the rich Malaysian heritage included throughout the cabin, from the upholstery to the curtains, an ode to the airline's roots. The symbiotic, synergistic design creates a smooth flow across cabin classes.

Meanwhile, the new seats are ergonomically built with lightweight upholstered leather and designed to provide passengers greater comfort and with enhanced functionality as it comes with personal device holders and power outlets to charge their own personal devices.

These refreshed B737-800 NG will also debut, the next generation wireless in-flight entertainment called MHstudio that gives guests complete control and flexibility to stream content and truly enjoy a wealth of entertainment from preferred TV programmes, movies, podcasts, music and reading materials. For the best experience, passengers are encouraged to bring their own listening devices and charging cables on board.

For those who have missed the duty-free shopping, they can now easily do so with MHstudio at their fingertips by purchasing on Temptations and can even add on in-flight snacks from its buy-on-board catalogue called MHskysnacks and have them delivered straight to their seat. These services will be made available on selected flights in the fourth quarter of this year.

"It is becoming increasingly important that we do everything with sustainability in mind. The all-new features of our refreshed B737-800 NG fleet will reduce our carbon footprint from the reduction of the weight of each aircraft - with the much lighter seats, use of soft cabin dividers and moving away from seatback screens to offer innovative in-flight entertainment features allowing for wireless streaming on board at their convenience," added Yin May.

The wireless in-flight entertainment, leaner seats, and soft cabin dividers made of lightweight materials, contribute significantly to the airline's ongoing sustainability efforts in which the aircraft fuel burn per passengers will improve by 8%, resulting in a lower carbon footprint on the planet.

The refreshed cabin also comes with a new configuration of cabin seats. It offers 12 Business Class seats and 162 Economy Class seats, with a 2-2 and 3-3 seat configuration respectively.

Malaysia Airlines received a 7-star rating for COVID-19 health and safety measures from Airline Ratings and is a member of Travel Safe Alliance Malaysia; strengthening its commitment to ensuring safe and seamless travel by adopting safety and hygiene excellence on-ground and on board their flights so passengers can continue to Fly Confidently.

NEW UPS AIRPORT GATEWAY AND INTERCONTINENTAL FLIGHT OPEN UP MORE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

- UPS doubling flight rotations and airport gateway capacity for India
- New intercontinental flight strengthens trade between businesses in India, Asia, Europe and the rest of the world

UPS announced an expansion of its global smart logistics network with a new airport gateway facility in India at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR). With this added capacity, a new Boeing 747-8 flight will now be able to further connect customers in India with more international trade opportunities in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

“Customers are at the core of our strategy and we’re on a mission to deliver what matters for them,” said Deepak Shrivastava, UPS Managing Director for Indian Subcontinent. “According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the first time, in financial year 2022, exports have surpassed \$400 billion, demonstrating the strength of India’s supply chains and the resilience of its small businesses. We’re here to support that growth.”

This is UPS’s second dedicated airport gateway facility in India after opening its Delhi airport gateway in 2020 and another example of how UPS is empowering local businesses to grow, expand to new markets and compete globally. The Bengaluru facility will provide in-house customs clearance and serve as a cross-border trade link for southern India, giving customers an extended pick-up time of up to two hours, while strengthening supply chains for cross-border trade.

The new flight and airport gateway follow the launch earlier this year of a new logistics brand for the Indian market, MOVIN, which is a joint venture between UPS and InterGlobe Enterprises to serve the needs and demands of the fast-paced Indian market.

“We look forward to welcoming UPS’s 747-8 aircraft, further connecting Bengaluru to the world,” said Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Strategy & Development Officer at Bangalore International Airport Ltd. “Our airport is on track to become a world-class cargo hub powered by leading global logistics provider like UPS, who are meeting the exponential growth of e-commerce and boosting trade for businesses in southern India.”

With the new flight scheduled to pass through BLR five times a week, and with six weekly flights coming into Delhi, the opening of the Bengaluru gateway almost doubles the number of flight rotations for UPS in India. The 747-8 is the largest aircraft in the UPS fleet, which means more capacity with a payload of 307,000 pounds, translating to lower emissions with fewer flights needed. By using owned aircraft, UPS also gives businesses the peace of mind they need when dealing with supply chain complexity. The UPS air network features a fleet of almost 600 aircraft delivering to over 220 countries and territories around the world. This is the third year in a row that UPS has introduced new flights into its network, after services to and from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in 2020, and to and from Osaka Kansai, to and from New Delhi and Cologne and Naples/Milan and Cologne in 2021

Vietjet’s new routes connecting Bengaluru to Vietnam’s top destinations

Following its new international routes connecting key Indian cities to Vietnam, Vietjet now reveals a bigger network growth and implementation plan for the India market. The new flight services are planned to link Bengaluru to Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), three of Vietnam’s most well-known business and tourism cities.

The new routes are set to operate within the fourth quarter of 2022. The airline also plans to open new direct services to other major Indian cities by the year-end. The announcement comes on the heels of the airline’s recent launch of direct routes connecting New Delhi, Mumbai to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and its soon-to-launch routes linking Mumbai and New Delhi with Phu Quoc islands, Southeast Asia’s favored beach destination in early September. The new direct flights from Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport) will make it easier and more affordable for Indian visitors to travel not only to Vietnam but also connect to other Southeast Asia’s destinations of Bali, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore or further to Northeast Asian cities of Seoul, Busan, Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, Nagoya, and Taipei, etc.

Located in the heart of Southeast Asia and home to a rich culture, diverse natural landscapes, delicious cuisine, and friendly local people, Vietnam has been a rising destination in recent years, drawing more and more world travelers, and routinely receiving praise from leading global travel magazines, including its attraction to Indian travelers. Being the country’s capital, Hanoi with over a thousand years of history, is home to enchanting lakes, unique urban areas such as the bustling Old Quarter and an array of fascinating heritage buildings. Meanwhile, Ho Chi Minh City, the country’s largest economic, financial and tourism hub, is a vibrant destination with incredible restaurants, shopping, nightlife and historical landmarks. Located in central Vietnam, Da Nang has been the world’s famous coastal destination and appealed to world tourists in recent years thanks to its iconic landmarks of Golden Bridge and Dragon Bridge. The city also serves as a gateway to Vietnam’s other tourist attractions, including the ancient town of Hoi An, the former imperial citadel in Hue city, and Quang Binh, home of the spectacular caves.

Vietnam has lifted all arrival regulations relating to Covid-19 and travelers can enjoy a complete pre-pandemic fashion arriving in the country. Travellers from India can easily apply for e-visa and enjoy their coming trips to Vietnam.



President Toyota's message to the world: **"This is Japan's Crown!"**

Toyota's new Crown made its world premiere at the Makuhari Messe convention center on July 15.

The Crown underwent a major transformation for its 16th generation, evolving from a sedan into four variations. The Japanese flagship model will be offered in approximately 40 countries and regions.

While more and more of Toyota's core models are staging their global debuts outside of Japan, the Crown's world premiere—led directly by President Akio Toyoda—was the first such unveiling in Japan for quite some time.

To give attendees at the unveiling a sense of the Crown's history, successive generations of the Crown from the first to the 15th generation lined the passageway to the conference hall, accompanied by photographs of each chief engineer and notable comments made by them.

Akio kicked off the event by saying:

"Even though we are here today to spotlight the launch of a new model, we arranged 15 generations of the Crown for you to see on the way in. Some of you may have wondered why. Let me begin by telling you a Crown's story woven by successive chief engineers.

The Crown's origin can be traced back to Toyota's founding era. 90 years ago, our founder Kiichiro Toyoda decided to take on the challenge of entering the automobile business. Driving the ambitious dream was his philosophy of enriching the lives of the Japanese people by creating a passenger car for the masses."

Production of Toyota's longed-for domestic passenger car finally began in January 1952, 15 years after the company's founding. It was Kiichiro himself who named the vehicle "Crown."

Appointed as the Crown's chief engineer was Kenya Nakamura.

Driven by a strong sense of mission, Nakamura put all his energy into developing the Crown. He had the conviction to do what he thought was right despite strong opposition and criticism. No latest technology was ignored in its creation, including a double-wishbone suspension for the front wheels.

Reminiscing about the launch, Nakamura said, "It was like all of Japan was in the midst of a festival. When I apologized for something that wasn't good enough, customers consoled me by saying: 'It's just a tiny scratch. No big deal.' It was like the whole country was giving me a push."

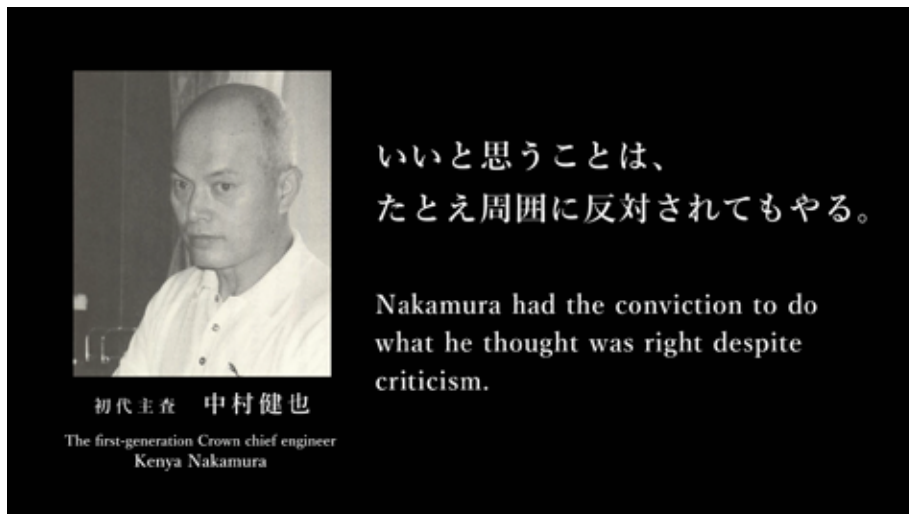
In 1957, the Crown participated in an Australian rally, making it the first

Japanese car to race in an international rally. Soon after, Toyota took another bold step by exporting the vehicle to the United States, marking its first passenger car export.

Then, in 1959, Toyota opened its Motomachi Plant specifically for producing passenger cars. Building a mass-production plant with an annual capacity of 60,000 units was a major decision, given that Japan's passenger car market was still in its infancy.

For Toyota, all its post-war challenges started with the first-generation Crown. I would say that car symbolized Japan's recovery and growth momentum.

The third-generation Crown was launched in 1967 when personal vehicle



ownership began to take off in Japan. Kameo Uchiyamada took the reins as chief engineer after experiencing the second-generation car's development under the tutelage of Nakamura. Looking at cars in a parking lot, Uchiyamada noticed that lighter colors seemed to be gaining in popularity.

Anticipating that more people would be using a Crown as their personal vehicle, he decided to make the third generation available in white. Widely known as the White Crown, that model became a driving force in Japan's motorization.

That was the Crown's foundational period.

Over the next two decades, the Crown

matured into a presence sought out by customers.

Launched in 1971, the fourth generation daringly adopted bold styling for a new image in anticipation of intensified competition from foreign cars.

However, partly due to quality issues, sales ended up being a struggle. The lesson learned from this model and taken to heart to this day was this: The Crown must first and foremost meet customers' core needs.

From that point on, successive chief engineers pursued Crown development while being careful to balance innovation and customer expectations.

That approach to car-making

bore fruit in the seventh and eighth generations, led by chief engineer Kenichi Imaizumi. With its "Someday, a Crown" tagline, the seventh generation became a status symbol in Japan, followed by the eighth generation, which achieved the highest sales volume in Crown history.

I joined Toyota in 1984, and my first workplace was the Motomachi Plant. I was involved in the production preparation for the eighth generation, and I still remember how everyone took pride in their work.

In the 1980s, the Crown had undoubtedly become Japan's flagship. However, its growth peaked there. It entered hard times from the ninth generation onward.

To start with, the Crown's positioning within Toyota changed.

In 1989, Toyota introduced the Lexus LS in Japan as the Toyota Celsior. That change was a major turning point in the history of the Crown, which had served as Toyota's long-standing flagship.

Then, after Japan's bubble economy burst in 1991, the Japanese economy fell into recession, dragging down with it the demand for luxury vehicles. Moreover, competition from imports intensified.

The ninth and 10th generations of the Crown faced these harsh headwinds. Chief engineer Hiroyuki Watanabe,

inheriting the role from Imaizumi of the “Someday, a Crown” days after working under him, came to experience both prosperous and difficult times for the Crown. From his era, the Crown entered a period of transformation.

In the 2000s, Toyota accelerated its advances overseas, pursuing a greater scale in sales and production. This gradually led to prioritizing models and markets that promised larger sales and profits.

With Crown sales in a steady decline, there was growing concern that the model’s end might be near. This sense of crisis drove development of the 12th-generation Crown, launched in 2003.

Mitsuhisa Kato, who headed development, said at the time, “There’s no way I’m going to let the Crown end on my watch.” With such determination, Kato took on the challenge of rebuilding the Crown. He redeveloped the platform and engine from scratch to achieve world-class driving performance.

At that time, I had just started driving training under Hiromu Naruse, my mentor. I still remember experiencing firsthand the driving performance of the Zero Crown.

The Zero Crown indicated a new direction: A Crown with advanced driving performance.

In 2008, the global financial crisis struck, and I was appointed president after the company plunged into the red. Despite the difficulties this posed for our company, we persisted in taking on the challenge of transforming the Crown.

“Let’s make a car that attracts people at first glance! You can change whatever you want to do that.” That’s how I encouraged the development team to redesign the Crown.

We transformed vehicle styling, renewed the vehicle platform, and honed the driving performance at the Nürburgring. That’s how we created the 14th-generation “Reborn Crown” and the 15th-generation “Connected Crown.”

For the past 20 years, we have explored Crown’s evolution while facing the challenge of the changing times.

Akio stated “And then came the time to develop the 16th generation. To draw a comparison with Japanese history, Japan’s final feudal dynasty happened to end after 15 generations. I was resolved to do whatever it takes to create a new era for the Crown.

So, I asked the development team, “Why don’t we go back to our origins and seriously think about the next Crown?” With that, development of the 16th generation got underway.

Stirred by my words, the Crown team started revisiting the passions of past chief engineers.”

Kenya Nakamura is quoted as saying: “Selling things to people with conviction means creating something that feels good in one’s heart and has within it the true heart of the customer. Only when a customer gets behind the wheel of such a car will they say: ‘This has got my attention. This is what I want to drive.’ The chief engineer’s role is to offer cars like that to the world.”

This is the origin of our chief engineer system, and I believe it is also the origin of our continued efforts in making ever-better cars.

Two years later, the Crown team has manifested a Crown for the coming era. When I first saw this new Crown, I said: “This looks interesting.” And when I got out of the car after driving it, I said: “Now that is a Crown.”

“Here, we present to you our Crown for the new era!”, declared Akio as he handed the stage over to Hiroki Nakajima, president of Toyota’s in-house Mid-size Vehicle Company, who shared with the audience episodes from the new Crown’s development.

Nakajima said “I am Hiroki Nakajima, president of Toyota’s in-house Mid-size Vehicle Company overseeing the new Crown’s development.

Let me talk about the new Crown’s development story. First of all, a little more than two years ago, we were working on a partial redesign of the 15th-generation Crown.”

I shared details of the project with President Toyoda, but he did not approve

it, saying: “Is this truly going to result in evolution? Why don’t we start thinking more seriously? Maybe we should skip a partial redesign.”

“Looking back, I believe those words marked the beginning of the development of the 16th-generation Crown.

We started by revisiting the passions of successive chief engineers to thoroughly reexamine what the Crown was all about.

We realized anew that there were no fixed rules such as those governing the shape of the car or its drive system. The only common thread was the engineers’ spirit of innovation and challenge. This prompted us to understand how we had tied ourselves to our predetermined rules over time.” Nakajima added.

At the time, I recalled the two messages President Toyoda had been repeating since becoming president. That is, “let’s make ever-better cars,” and “let’s aim to be the best in town, not the best in the world.”

I realized that the Crown is a long-time seller because the past chief engineers constantly challenged themselves to create an ever-better Crown with a best-in-town focus in their car-making to make customers happy.

This caused us to drastically change our approach. We freed ourselves from fixed ways of thinking and started exploring a new Crown that would achieve happiness for our customers. That’s how this crossover’s development began.

President Toyoda gave us the green light when we showed him the vehicle’s shape and packaging. Around that time, he also gave us a new task.

He said: “Why don’t we believe also think about a sedan?”

Frankly, I couldn’t what I had just heard. But I thought it was because he saw our changes since deciding to skip a partial redesign. We had a different mindset because we returned to the Crown’s origin, and he wanted us to apply that to making a sedan version.

Then, in return, we proposed four

different models, thinking that we also needed a hatchback and a station wagon to meet diverse needs. This is the background story.

Let me once again introduce to you our four versions of the new Crown.

Nakajima introduces four versions of the new Crown.

First, the Crossover. This Crown is the result of fusing a sedan and an SUV. Its packaging allows for ease of entry and exit, provides a high viewpoint, and makes the vehicle easy to drive. Its driving performance, underpinned by a new hybrid system, marks an evolutionary advance, making it a sedan like no other.

Next, the Sport. This Crown is a new form of sporty SUV, a spirited and creative car with easy-to-drive packaging that offers an agile and sporty driving experience.

Then, the Sedan. As an orthodox sedan, this Crown was developed in pursuit of quality and comfort, as well as a new formal expression. It is also well-suited as a chauffeured vehicle.

Last, the Estate. This Crown, as a highly functional SUV, enables users to enjoy driving performance with power to spare and an active lifestyle in a mature atmosphere. The rear seats fold to form a completely flat cargo area, making this model a cross between a station wagon and an SUV.

These four models are united under the Crown name. Starting with this now-launching Crown Crossover, we will roll them out in succession over the next year and a half.

Nakajima further added "It was no easy task to develop these four models at the same time. What made it possible were Toyota's in-house company system and the Toyota New Global Architecture, or TNGA. We couldn't present the new Crown today without them.

First, I'll explain a bit about our in-house company system we started in 2016.

Each in-house company's members feel strongly attached to and place

the highest priority on the cars they are in charge of. Our mission is to make decisions and act on our own initiative.

For the Mid-size Vehicle Company, we were able to position the Crown first and foremost. And as president, I was able to execute the project based on my responsibility and judgment. That's what really mattered.

We had to review our previous development process, thoroughly eliminate waste, and secure resources. We placed the product planning and development processes under the responsibility of a single team, promoting everyone's professionalism and communicating more closely than ever before to accomplish our mission.

Next, let me now talk about the second element, TNGA.

In 2012, in pursuit of making ever-better cars, we started the TNGA initiative to drastically improve basic vehicle performance through the integrated development of innovative vehicle platforms and powertrains.

Over the past ten years, TNGA has matured and evolved, enabling us to turn the Crown into a series.

TNGA-based platforms have enhanced basic vehicle performance, styling that entices people at first glance, and drive and ride quality that makes people want to keep on enjoying it.

The new Crown is even more developed. The Crown Sports, for example, offers both a stylish appearance and interior comfort and usability thanks to a new dedicated platform and larger-diameter tires.

TNGA powertrains, with an emphasis on direct and smooth performance, have achieved both excellent driving performance and fuel efficiency while contributing to a lower center of gravity for vehicles.

That evolution has continued. For example, in this crossover, the engine and front electric motor are directly connected, and the rear wheels have

a dedicated large electric motor, achieving powerful driving with a total output of 350 horsepower and a robust 550 newton-meters of torque. This model also employs a new hybrid system that uses precise four-wheel-drive control of vehicle posture.

The Crown has long served as the flagship of the Toyota brand.

We will put all of our energy into developing these Crown models by applying to the fullest our in-house company system and TNGA, and we will build flagship-quality vehicles for our customers. Please look forward to them."

Akio said "I believe that the philosophy of producing happiness for all has always been at the core of the Crown.

This flagship has represented Japanese success and pride, bringing together Japan's world-class technology and skilled workforce.

The new Crown is full of these underlying strengths.

That is why, with this series, we will once again take on the world.

The new Crown will be available in approximately 40 countries and regions, with an expected annual sales volume of some 200,000 units.

I would be more than happy if we could help restore vitality to Japan by making the Crown a Japanese car loved round the world.

I sincerely want the world to know what Japan's Crown is all about.

In closing, let me say a few words to customers around the world.

I'm so excited to announce today... that this new Crown family of vehicles will be offered...not just in Japan... but globally.... for the very first time.

Customers from around the world will now get a chance to drive this historic Japanese nameplate... born out of passion, pride, and progress.

A car that could very well be... our crowning achievement!

We hope to create a new story for Japan's Crown with all of you. Thank you very much for your kind attention."



Top 10 Gin Brands in India

Here is a list of popular Gin Brands; both Indian and Imported

● Asheesh Bhandari

Gin has been consumed for many generations and is a popular alcohol worldwide. Until recently, in India it was a popular drink in limited circles, the most prominent being the Armed Forces. The famous Gin & Tonic was served at every Mess or Defence officers Institute in the country as the drink of choice. But now, thanks to some enterprising tipplers, who experimented with the unique botanicals and exclusive packaging, Gin has burst onto the scene with a wide range and variety of flavours. Today Gin is more popular among the high heeled ladies than earlier

Here is a list of popular Gin Brands in India; we start with the made in India stuff and move on to the International brands.

1. Hapusa

Hapusa, in Sanskrit means juniper. Hapusa, a smooth dry gin from Nao Spirits, sources its juniper berries from the Himalayan region and uses tasty botanicals such as turmeric, mango,

coriander seeds, cardamom, gondhoraj limes, and almonds in its recipe. These botanicals are sourced from around the country and Kolkota, Goa, and Tamil Nadu in particular. It has an alcohol content of 43%. With floral notes and a spiced finish, Hapusa evokes earthy flavours can be sipped on its own over ice or with a dash of tonic.

2. Greater Than

Greater Than is the first Gin brand of Nao Spirits and is the only London dry gin in India. The ingredients such as juniper and citrus come from Macedonia, and Spain while the fennel, coriander and ginger come from Goa and New Delhi. The other main botanicals are Chamomile, orange peels, Angelica and orris roots, and lemongrass, which are also sourced in-country. The gin has an alcohol content of 42.3%. Greater Than has a strong juniper flavour with citrus and ginger notes. Its best served as classic Gin & Tonic drink.

3. Jaisalmer Indian Craft Gin

Jaisalmer Indian Craft Gin is a product of Radico Khaitan. This Gin uses 11 Indian botanicals which include

coriander, vetiver, sweet orange strip, lemongrass, Darjeeling green tea leaves, and cubeb pepper. It has Juniper taking the centre stage for the taste. These seven of the eleven botanicals are sourced in India. The blend of the ingredients with an alcohol content of 43% makes Jaisalmer Gin ideal as an outlandish mixed drink with a reviving flavour. Jaisalmer Indian Craft Gin is among the front runners driving the Gin revolution in the country.

Jaisalmer Indian Craft Gin was awarded the Best Gin Gold Medal 2020 by The Fifty Best, USA and also ranked Best in Asia 2019 by The Gin Guide Awards, UK.

4. Stranger & Sons

This Gin was launched in 2018 by Third Eye Distillery in Goa, where it is produced. The company was co-founded by Sakshi Saigal with cousin Vidur Gupta and her husband Rahul Mehra, who is also co-founder of Gateway Brewing Co. and SVAMI artisanal tonic waters and mixers.

Stranger & Sons uses ingredients from across the country, including their own garden. It uses a healthy dose of juniper, along with a hit of black pepper, lemon,

Gondhoraj limes of Kolkotta, nutmeg, mace, coriander seed, angelica, liquorice, cassia and citrus peels. The gin has a citrus-forward character that makes it enjoyable as a refreshing Gin & Tonic.

5. Jin Jiji

This is possibly the first gin in the world to use cashew nuts in its production, an ingredient synonymous with Goa. Jin Jiji uses juniper sourced from the Himalayas and distils its spirit with other Indian botanicals such as tulsi and chamomile in a copper pot in Goa. The other ingredients include angelica



and orris roots, and black tea. The alcohol content is 43%.

The jiji in the moniker is derived from the Hindi word jijivisha to describe a passion and lust for life.

6. Gin Gin

Branding themselves as India's only single-shot distilled 'hemp' gin, Gin Gin comprises nine botanicals: hemp, Himalayan juniper, coriander, lavender, rosemary, caraway seeds, cinnamon, lemongrass and butterfly pea flower. "I want Gin Gin to be a gateway spirit for the entire category. In this regard, adding hemp as a botanical would help pique a consumer's curiosity," says the 24-year-old founder, Shubham Khanna.

Khanna is a self-taught, one-man-army in the gin-distilling business who travelled to New York to study the process. After trials across a few bars and hostels in Goa, Gin Gin is now hitting the market in the sunshine state of Goa.

Gin Gin is a single shot vapor-infused spirit, also the first of its kind in India. This is a process where in all the botanicals are macerated in a neutral spirit, then strained before being distilled in the still, and water is added pre-bottling.



7. Bombay Sapphire

Bombay Sapphire is probably the most famous Gin brands in India. It contains ten botanicals sourced from various nations namely, Juniper along with the lemon strip, coriander, angelica root, orris, grains of paradise, cubeb berries, cassia bark, almonds and liquorice. The brand additionally uses an unusual refining cycle to make its different flavour profile. Rather than heating the botanicals, Bombay Sapphire uses a Vapor Infusion cycle to release the aroma.

Bombay Sapphire has 40% to 46% liquor by volume. The Gin has a smooth taste, ideal for making a dry martini.

8. Botanist

Botanist is produced by refining nine different botanicals utilizing direct bubbling, then passing fumes through a basket with 22 more natural and raw ingredients. The fume implantation and bubbling consolidate to give a fragrant and peculiar flavour that is unique.

The Botanist uses natural and raw ingredients and no artificial flavours. It is one of the best gin brands in India which has apple mint, chamomile, creeping thistle, heather and elder among numerous different botanicals.

The central note of the Gin is citrus with a herby and floral flavour. It is a dry gin brand in India with alcohol content of 46%. The gin is manufactured in the Bruichladdich Distillery, in Scotland.

9. Beefeater

Beefeater is refined with 100% Grain Spirit. The Beefeater Gin utilizes nine Botanical ingredients, which incorporates, Seville Oranges, Orris Roots, Almonds, Angelica seeds and roots, Liquorices which are all novel to Beefeater Gin alone.

All the nine herbal ingredients are soaked for a whole day before starting the cycle of refining. Following 8 hours of refining, it gets sent to Scotland for additional mixing which delivers the ideal appetizing Beefeater flavour.

The alcohol content of Beefeater is 40%. It has a very elaborate, distilling process. It is a dry gin brand that has been popular in India for a number of years.

10. Gin Mare

Gin Mare is a Mediterranean flavour-inspired Gin. It has a home-grown and a sweet aroma. This is a Spanish gin made with Arbequina olive, rosemary, thyme, basil and mandarin, citrus zest, coriander & tart juniper. Gin Mare does not contain any allergens. Gin fans broadly appreciate Gin Mare. The premium Gin from Spain is definitely among the popular gin brands in India.

Gin Mare's alcohol content is 42.7 %

WIMBLEDON

Down the ages

Wimbledon is an important tennis Grand Slam event held annually in the month of July. The event has been in existence for 152 years and has some interesting stories over the years

The All England Club was set up in 1869 for the sport of Croquet. The club was set up on four acres of land on Worple Road in Wimbledon. But Lawn tennis was the popular pastime in those days. The Club therefore extended its facilities to include Lawn tennis on popular

demand. It was also renamed the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club.

The Beginning and the 19th Century

The first tournament was held in 9 July 1877 and was open to all amateurs; male only. There





were 22 male participants at the first Championship. They brought their own rackets and shoes. Balls were provided by the club. Interestingly the first Championship at Wimbledon allowed service underarm. Over 200 spectators attended the event even though the seating capacity at the Club was for 30 people.

With the Men's Singles Championship being a runaway success, the Men's Doubles and the Ladies Singles were introduced in 1884. The first ever Ladies Singles had 13 entries but it was the sisters, Maud and Lilian Watson who were the finalists. 19 year old Maud Watson won the finals in three sets and also went on to win in the following year.

Charlotte "Lottie" Dod, burst onto the scene in 1887 to become the Ladies Singles Champion at the age of 15 years and 285 days. She remains the youngest champion even in 2022. Lottie Dod won four Championships at Wimbledon between 1888 and 1893. Her mastery of the sport is reflected in the fact that she dropped only one set in those five years



of play.

It was the Renshaw twins, William and Ernest, who drew a large number of spectators in 1889, with numbers swelling beyond 3,000. The main attraction was the style in which the twins played tennis. In effect they were the pioneers of modern tennis relying on the hard service, the smash shot and aggressive volleys. William Renshaw went on to win seven Men's Singles Championships at Wimbledon, six of which were in consecutive years.

The Doherty brothers, Reggie and Laurie, dominated the Wimbledon Championships between 1887 and 1906. Between them, the brothers won nine of ten Wimbledon Men's Singles titles in this period. Together they won eight Wimbledon Men's Doubles Championships in these years.

The World Wars and the 20th century

The start of the twentieth Century saw a number of foreign players join the Wimbledon Championships. Mary Sutton, an American became the first

ever foreigner to win a Wimbledon Championship in 1905. She won the Ladies Singles Championship again in 1907. The same year Norman Brookes, an Australian, became the first foreigner to win the Men's Singles Championship.

The 1908 Olympics included tennis as a full Olympic Sport. Since the Olympics that year were hosted in London, the grass court tennis event was hosted at Wimbledon. That year the Olympic Games were held over a period of six months. There were two tennis events – indoor and outdoor. British players won the Gold medal in both the Men's Singles and Ladies Singles events.

Even though the Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles were played at Wimbledon as non-championship events, they were included in the Championships in 1913.

The First World War suspended the Championships from 1915 to 1918. Anthony Wilding from New Zealand won the Men's Singles in three straight years from 1910 to 1913. He joined the Royal Marines at the outbreak of the war and was killed on the Western Front in 1915.

The 1920s was an eventful decade at Wimbledon. The Club moved to larger grounds at Church Road in 1922, where the Wimbledon Championships are held to this day. The 1922 Championship was held at Church Road with a capacity to seat 13,500 spectators. The opening ceremony was held on 26 June followed by two weeks of heavy rains.

In the same year it was also decided to do away with the Champions Round, where the defending champion did not have to compete until the very end. Even though efforts had been made earlier the Champions Round could not be abolished for want of popular support. After the War, the decision to abolish the Champions Round was made with considerable support from

the players.

In 1924, the No.1 Court was inaugurated as a show Court with a seating capacity of 3,500 spectators. It was initially intended to be a hard court, but ended up being the second main grass court. Its capacity was increased to 7,500 over the years. This Court played a key role at the Wimbledon Championships till it was replaced by a new No. 1 Court in 1996 with a seating capacity of 11,500 spectators.

Suzanne Lenglen is considered the first superstar in Women's tennis, with an astounding record of 15 titles; 6 Ladies Singles, 6 Ladies Doubles and 3 Mixed Doubles. She achieved "trebles" (i.e. winning in the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles) in 1920, 1922



and 1925. However, an unfortunate mix up in 1926 saw the last of her at the Wimbledon. A scheduling mix up followed by not informing her properly resulted in her arriving late for a match at which Queen Mary was present and waiting. She was booed the next day while playing a mixed double match. The French lady promptly withdrew from the Championships and did not return ever.

1926 was the Jubilee Year for the Wimbledon Championships. Commemorative medals were given by King George V and Queen Mary to the Champions at Wimbledon. Their son, the Duke of York, later King George VI, competed in the Men's Double

event. King George VI remains the only member of the Royal Family to have ever competed at the Wimbledon Championships.

In the decade of the 1920's the Wimbledon was dominated by French players: Suzanne Lenglen, Jean Borotra, Henri Cochet, Rene Lacoste and Jacques Brugnon.

Helen Wills Moody, a Californian, won eight Wimbledon titles and surpassed Suzanne Lenglen's achievement. This record remained unbroken until Martina Navratilova made her presence felt.

The very first live coverage of a sports event was that of the first round match of the 1937 Championships between Bunny Austin and George Rogers.



BBC covered the match with two cameras on Centre Court and a limited transmission time of 30 minutes.

In 1939 the Second World War broke out. Games were suspended and the grounds were used for fire and ambulance services, a decontamination unit, by the British Home Guard and as drill grounds for soldiers stationed in the vicinity. In the six years of the world war, miraculously, only one 50 pound German bomb fell on the Centre Court on 11 October 1940. The bomb fell on one corner of the stands and destroyed a seating capacity of 1200 spectators.

It was decided to hold the 1946 championship even though the seats could not be repaired until the following

year. Players from 23 countries participated. There were no qualification rounds and players were selected on the basis of merit. The popularity of the Wimbledon championship was quickly re-established.

In 1952 and 1953, Maureen 'Little Mo' Connolly won the treble, the first teenager to do so. The American teenager, looked to dominate the Wimbledon but a broken leg in a riding accident ended her short but illustrious career in tennis. The 1953, Men's singles match was the first epic marathon match of 93 games that was played till 9.15 pm. Jaroslav Drobný fought hard to beat Budge Patty and ultimately win the title.

Althea Gibson, was the first Afro-American and the ninth American lady to win the Women's Singles and the Women's Doubles titles in 1957. Together with Neale Fraser, she was the runner up in the Mixed Doubles Championship. Althea, also won the French and American Championships that year. In 1956, she had won the Women's Doubles title and reached the quarter finals in the Women's Singles at Wimbledon.

Angela Mortimer and Christine Truman broke the jinx 1961 and became the all-British finalists in the Women's Singles Championship after a lull of 47 years. Mortimer won the title in a hard fought and emotional battle at the nets.

The first ever Open Wimbledon Championship was held in 1968. It was a huge success with many of the tennis Greats coming back to play the Open's. The Men's singles was an all-Australian all-left hand affair between, Rod Laver and Tony Roche. Laver won. Billie Jean King claimed the Ladies Singles title, John Newcombe and Tony Roche won the Gentlemen's Doubles, Rosemary Casals and Billie Jean King won the Ladies' Doubles and Ken Fletcher and Margaret Court won the Mixed Doubles.

The longest first round match was played between Pancho Gonzalez, an American, then 41 years of age,

and Charlie Pasarell, then 25 years of age. The match lasted 5 hours and 20 minutes, over two days in which 112 games were played, setting a record. Play was stopped due to poor light at 8pm on the first day. Pancho Gonzalez defeated his younger opponent.

Colour television arrived on the scene in the 1970's. Wimbledon Championships viewed on colour television was spectacular and a new audience was added to the games. The Ladies Singles match between Billie Jean King and Margaret Court is counted among the best and it was televised in colour.

Evonne Goolagong beat Margaret Court in 1971 to become the first Australian Aboriginal champion at



Wimbledon. At 19 years of age she also became the fourth teenager to win the Ladies Singles title since the War.

Rain played spoilsport in the 1972 Men's Single Championship and the match was washed out. For the first time in the history of the Championships, breaking with tradition, the Men's Singles was played on a Sunday.

Nikki Pilic, the Yugoslav number one in 1973, was suspended by his national tennis association for refusing to play in a Davis Cup tie. His suspension was supported by the International Lawn Tennis Federation (ILTF), which meant that Pilic could not participate in the Wimbledon Championship. The newly set up players union, the Association of

Tennis Professionals (ATP) supported Pilic. In the face off, 79 players including 13 of the 16 seeded players withdrew from the Wimbledon Championship that year.

Arthur Ashe faced the popular Jimmy Connors in the 1975 Gentlemen's Singles Championship. He exploited Jimmy Connors weakness, the low forehand, to his advantage. Ashe also hooked his serves wide to the right of his opponent, making it difficult for Connors to return the serve without errors. Arthur Ashe became the first African-American to win the Gentlemen's Singles Championship in 1975.

The Wimbledon's centenary year was celebrated in 1977. Virginia Wade, a



31 year old British player was not the favourite in comparison to the likes of Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova and Sue Baker. However, Wade defeated Chris Evert in the Semi-Finals and went on to win the Ladies Singles title. As a British player, her moment of pride was to have won the Championship before the Queen in the centenary year of the Wimbledon.

The centenary year Gentlemen's Singles was a match between Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors in which the opponents battled it out on a fast grass court from their respective baselines. The closely contested match lasted three hours and fourteen minutes and was finally won by Borg. Jimmy Connors

had beaten John McEnroe to reach the finals and Borg had beaten his friend and practice partner, Vitas Gerulaitis in the semi-finals.

The Wimbledon Museum and its associated Lord Ritchie Library, was officially opened on 20th May, 1977 by HRH, The Duke of Kent. Over the years, has become an important tourist attraction in London. The Museum covers all aspects of tennis from its origin and includes the developments to the present day. Visitors are attracted to various exhibitions such as Tennis fashion.

Billie Jean King won her 20th title in 1979. Since 1975, she had shared the record of 19 titles with Elizabeth Ryan. Hours before Billie won her twentieth title, Elizabeth passed away. According to Billie it was as if Elizabeth did not want to see her record broken. But Elizabeth had confided to Billie that she wished that if anyone broke her record it would be Billie.

The 1980s saw epic battles at the Wimbledon between great tennis stars such as Bjorn Borg, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker in the Gentlemen's Singles Championship. It was the likes of Chris Evert, Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova. Pat Cash became the eleventh Australian to win the men's title in 1987, beating John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl on the way. Steffi Graf shook up women's tennis by becoming the fourth player to win the Grand Slam of Majors in 1988. That year she became the only player in tennis history to add an Olympic Gold to the Grand Slam, when she beat Gabriela Martini in the Seoul Olympics. She was only 19.

Steffi Graf and Pete Sampras dominated the Courts in the 1990's. But it was Martina Navratilova who beat Helen Wills Moody's record when she won her ninth Singles title at Wimbledon. Martina was defeated by Conchita Martinez of Spain in 1994. Martinez remains the only Spaniard to win the Ladies Singles Championship to this date.

Jeff Tarango, an American player, was losing his match in 1995, and became increasingly frustrated with the Chair Umpire. In the Court he screamed at the Umpire accusing him of being corrupt. He walked off the Court when his request to have the Umpire removed was denied. Later Tarango's wife slapped the Umpire when they crossed each other in a corridor. Tarango was fined USD 63,000 and banned from two Grand Slam tournaments.

During a rain delay in 1996, Sir Cliff Richard was invited to give an impromptu concert at the Centre Court. His rendition of "Singing in the Rain" was backed up by a choir of Virginia Wade, Martina Navratilova, Pam Shriver, Gigi Fernandez and Conchita Martinez. The crowds loved and showed their appreciation by joining in song.

After a 20 year hiatus, a British tennis champion, Tim Henman won the Gentleman's Singles match in 1997. The crowds backed Tim to the hilt, applauding his every winning stroke. Tim himself acknowledges that he did not find such euphoric support from the spectators in the subsequent ten years of play. The spectators were so enthusiastic about the match that they camped all night to buy one of 14,000 tickets that cost GBP 15. The same year Martina Hingis at 16, became the youngest Ladies Singles Champion since 1887.

The Duke of Kent inaugurated the New No.1 Court at Wimbledon. Tennis greats such as Rod Laver, John Newcombe, John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Pete Sampras, Louise Brough, Maria Bueno, Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova were invited to the opening ceremony.

The new No.1 Court adds 4,500 seats to increase the capacity to 11,000 seats. The building houses a food village, a merchandising shop, hospitality suites and a debenture holders' lounge overlooking courts 14-17. A broadcast centre, and new courts 18 and 19 have been added. The original No.1 Court has been demolished and a new



Millennium Building stands there today.

The biggest upset in 1999 was when 16 year old Jelena Dokic from Australia defeated No.1 Martina Hingis in a first round match. Hingis and Dokic were friends and practice partners, who went on a family holiday together. Excitement in 1999 continued in the Ladies Singles quarter finals where 19 year old Venus Williams clashed with seven time champion, Steffi Graf. Both ladies produced some of their best tennis with hard hitting shots placed at every corner of the court. Steffi Graf was exhilarated to have won the Quarter final match.

The recent 22 years

The Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, dominated women's tennis in the first decade of the 21st century, often battling against each other on the Centre Court. They go down in tennis history as the first sisters to win Grand Slam title. They are also known to have made an impact on Centre Court with their rather fashionable and often unconventional attire. Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Pat Rafter, Goran Ivanisevic, and Tim Henman are some of the great names featuring in the Gentleman's Singles of the first decade of this century.

The first Semi Final Match in 2001 was played between Tim Henman and Goran Ivanisevic. The match saw some fine tennis play between both the popular players. Continuous

disruptions due to rain meant the match was played over 3 consecutive days and ended 45 hours and 9 minutes after it started. Goran Ivanisevic won the match and moved to the finals to meet Pat Rafter. That match ran into 5 sets and was played over 3 hours and 1 minute. Goran became the well-deserved winner of Gentleman's Singles Championship in 2001.

Roger Federer won his first Wimbledon title in 2001 when he beat Pete Sampras, the seven time champion since 1996. Federer was then just 19 years of age. They would meet again at the 2009 championships which was again won by Federer to bag his fifteenth Grand Slam win on Centre Court. Pete Sampras was an unannounced spectator at that match who watched Federer defeat Andy Roddick in a 5 set match that lasted four hours and sixteen minutes to equal his record. Pete Sampras retired in 2002.

Martina Navratilova had her most glorious year in tennis in 2003. She won her 20th Wimbledon title, having won the Mixed Doubles alongside Leader Paes. With this she equalled the record of Billie Jean King. Six months earlier she has won the "boxed set" having won the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles in all four Grand Slam Tournaments. Only Doris Hart and Margaret Court had done so before her. A great feat indeed!

Maria Sharapova, the 17 year Russian who stood six feet tall, opened more



than a few eyes when she beat Serena Williams to win the 2004 Ladies title. Adding to the style in ladies tennis, she also seemed to open the gates for Russian women in the international sport of tennis.

In a nail biting finals match in 2005, Venus Williams won her third title beating Lindsay Davenport in a match that lasted two hours and forty five minutes. This match is recorded as the longest match in women's singles tennis at Wimbledon.

Andre Agassi played his last Men's Singles Wimbledon match in 2006 against Rafael Nadal, who was then 20 years younger than Agassi. Steffi Graf and Agassi went on to partner in the Mixed Doubles matches in International tennis. Rafael Nadal has not looked back since then and continues to dominate men's tennis especially of the clay courts.

2007 was an important year for Wimbledon. It was the year women earned an equal prize money as men across all levels and formats. It was also the year in which Centre Court and Court No.1 got the "Hawk Eye", an electronic line-calling technology, which replaced the infra-red system,



Cyclops.

The Centre Court got its much awaited "roof" on 17 May 2009. It took nine years to plan the roof and another three years to install it. But it was worth the wait since rain does not disrupt play on the Centre Court anymore. It takes a good 8 minutes for the roof to roll out to cover or uncover the Court but play is not disrupted in this time. 8 minutes is probably justified too as the roof weighs a whopping 3,000 tons.

Her Majesty the Queen returned to the Wimbledon Championships in 2010 after 33 years of her last visit. Accompanied by the Duke of Kent, she walked around the ground and stopped at Court 14 where youngsters of the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative were busy in practice. She then greeted the top seeded players for the year.

That year, John Isner beat Nicolas Mahut in a first round match that lasted 11 hours and 5 minutes and was a mammoth battle between the two in the final set which ended with a score of 70-68 in favour of Isner.

Novak Djokovic beat Rafael Nadal in 2011, the 125th year of the Wimbledon Championships. The 24 year old

Serbian was watched by the President of his country as he broke Nadals winning streak of twenty matches. That year Djokovic had a win-loss ratio of 70:6 and won three Grand Slam titles.

In 2012, Yaroslava Shvedova won a "Golden Set" – she won 24 straight games and took merely 15 minutes to achieve this feat. This was a first in Wimbledon and the very first in women's tennis since 1968 when professional women's tennis started.

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal exited the Championships early in surprise losses. After 77 years, Andy Murray made England proud by beating Novak Djokovic in the Gentlemen's Singles Championship in 2013. It was a day all of United Kingdom cheered for Andy Murray, at Wimbledon and beyond. He won the title again in 2016.

The 2020 Wimbledon Championships were cancelled due to the Pandemic. The last time the Championships were cancelled was during World War II. The All England Club exercised a GBP 100 million insurance policy that covered infectious diseases. Of this amount GBP 10 million was distributed to 620 players. The 2020 Wimbledon Championship would have been the 134th edition but this was rescheduled to 2021. Novak Djokovic won the Gentlemen's Singles title both in 2021 and 2022 while in the Ladies Singles Championship, Ashleigh Barty of Australia won in 2021 and Elena Rybakina, the first woman in tennis from Khazakistan, won the title in 2022.

Wimbledon continues to attract large crowds and fans look forward to the matches played by their favourite players. Technological advancements improve the equipment being used, help umpires make better decisions, broadcast the matches to an ever increasing number of viewers. But its the grit, guts and stamina of players that enable them to play an 11 hour match and truly make all the excitement at Wimbledon.



INVEDA

Inveda has infused skincare with science and the ancient art of Ayurveda. From researching scriptures of Vedas to combining it with modern ingredients, each product in this range blends with vital zones in our body to bring out the best of inner beauty reflected on our skin.

KumkumadiTailam is one of the most beneficial oils to include in your skincare routine. It is known to give a golden glow to your skin when applied regularly and it also goes by the name miracle elixir. KumkumadiTailam is an amazing ayurvedic amalgamation of herbs that acts as a magical remedy for uplifting skin health and treating various skin issues like skin-ageing.

The below-mentioned products from Inveda are a must-have in the skincare regime from this range for a shiny ageless skin –

KumkumadiTailam Foaming Face wash

With the unique concoction of KumkumadiTailam, Saffron, Turmeric

and natural herbal ingredients, this foaming face wash is all you need to deeply cleanse your skin. Effective in removing dirt, impurities, sebum and makeup, this naturally curated foaming face wash is best for everyday use.

KumkumadiTailam Ubtan Face wash

Immerse your skin in the goodness of Ubtan & Saffron with KumkumadiTailam Ubtan Face wash. Kumkumadi Ubtan face wash cleans your face without making it dry. Prevent your 9 skin issues such as pigmentation, acne, acne scars, dark spots, sun tan, dark circles, wrinkles, blemishes, skin infections and so on with this all natural ubtan face wash that is curated to suit all skin types, get this travel-friendly ubtan face wash that easily helps you to feel refreshed and glowing.

KumkumadiTailam Body Wash

Make your Everyday Bathing

Luxury with KumkumadiTailam Body Wash. Made with goodness of KumkumadiTailam, Saffron, Turmeric and mix of natural herbal ingredients, this Ayurvedic Kumkumadi body wash gives you healthy and glowing skin every time you shower. Effective in washing away dirt, impurities & excessive sebum, this naturally curated body wash is best for everyday use.

KumkumadiTailam Body Lotion

Inveda KumkumadiTailam Body Lotion is curated with goodness of natural ingredients that soothes and replenishes your skin. Made with goodness of KumkumadiTailam, saffron, turmeric extracts, this Kumkumadi lotion for body hydrates the skin and gives a glowing charm. Curated to suit all skin types, this body lotion prevents your skin from uneven tone, dark spots, sun tan, skin infections and so on.

Comment: your body companion.

Rating: 9/10

R for Rabbit

The lightweight R for Rabbit Cutie Pie Stroller is equipped with features to keep the baby safe. Kids may take a comfortable, enjoyable stroll in this cute looking stroller. The unique design makes the stroller even cuter by the protruding eyeballs on the front tray. This baby stroller is meant to provide complete safety as you stroll with your little one and not just the best appearances. The stroller can be easily stored in any corner of the room or transported in the car because it is simple to fold and unfold and becomes quite small after folding. The five-point safety harnesses guarantee the child's security on every move you make with them.

Comment: Go for R for Rabbit for little cute Rabbit like baby.

Rating: 9/10



Skinncells

Skinncells is India's very own, new and exclusive lip-care brand launches an exclusive lip care range curated specially for men. This father's day gift some extra care that your dad deserves. It is scientifically manufactured to cater to specific lip requirements. The company has recently introduced a lip nourishing kit for men called Pappy Digger. The kit comes with three products, each serving a unique purpose of providing healthy and nourished lips for men.

Male skin is different than a female skin. Redundant and ardent lifestyle results in dry chapped lips. Gift your father love and care that he will remember his entire life.

The Pappy Digger kit is a 3-step lip-care regimen. The products have been formulated keeping in mind the lifestyle and personal-care needs of men. The Pappy Digger kit is first-of-its-kind in India. It is currently priced at Rs 2,297 and is available at a site-wise 33% discount and you can get it for Rs 1,539.

Comment: Personal-care needs of men recognized and fulfilled by Skinncells.

Rating: 8/10



Latin Quarters

Latin Quarters is a company with a taste for elegance and style. Rich and beautiful designs are woven in lurex, sequin, suede, polyester, and tweed for the brand's Autumn Winter 2022 collection, bringing out its global style quotient with the ideal shine the season calls for. Fashionistas have a wide range of selections from Latin Quarter's collection, including ankle-length dresses, crop tops, wide-leg pants, sparkly sequin party dresses, classical prints, co-ord sets, slip dresses, trench coats, and more. The AW22 Bohemian collection by Latin Quarters



is of earthy colour palette, the Party edits from the Latin Quarter are of darker hues, and the Young Essentials are of pastels. So what are you waiting for? Identify your style from the array and prepare to stand out this season #RealYouByLQ with Latin Quarter's Autumn Winter Collection 2022. New collection is available In-stores ,Online and in Shoppers Stop, Pantaloons.

Comment: Land in the world of new fashion trends with Latin Quarters.

Rating: 8/10

Puressentiel

With Aroma therapy being 'second-most preferred' natural therapy and the last decade seeing up to 65% growth in the Health market with 85% of people considering natural medicines & practices, Puressentiel has entered the Indian market with a range of wellness air sprays for their audience.

Purifying Air Spray - Creates a clean, uplifting, aromatic atmosphere in your home. Get rid of unpleasant odors and enjoy

clean, fresh air without synthetic chemicals!

Respiratory Nasal Spray - Blended with 19 pure essential oils is a 100% Natural Formula to prevent and treat the first signs of winter discomfort and seasonal sensitivities to soothe the airways.

Rest and Relax AirSpray- A 100% natural solution to prepare to sleep for peaceful, serene and restful nights. It provides relaxation and rest and soothes everyday stress.

These products from Puressentiel kill 99.9% of germs for a clean, purified, and healthy indoor environment. Rich in more than 20 purifying essential oils in each product, these are suitable for Asthmatic patients, kids, and people from all age groups. This Anti-viral, Anti-bacterial, Anti-fungal



is a long-lasting fragrance that helps in killing germs and bacterial and can be sprayed into the four corners of the room or onto carpets, bedding, surfaces, shoe racks, closets, inside cars etc keeping it safe for everyone.

Comment: A great blend of clean, healthy and aromatic environment.

Rating: 8/10

WishCare

WishCare is a sustainable D2C (direct-to-consumer) personal care brand that currently operates in 15+ distinctive market places.

WishCare Vitamin C+ Pure Glow Face Kit is packed with the power of 35% Vitamin C, Hyaluronic Acid, Retinol, Niacinamide, Oranges, Berries & Turmeric.

WishCare Pure Glow Complete Care Kit includes Face Wash - 150ml + Toner - 200ml + Serum - 30ml+ Face Cream - 50gm + Travel Pouch + Plantable Rakhi. This makes it perfect gift option for Raksha Bandhan.

This kit helps you to achieve a bright skin, radiant glow, improves hydration, reduces hyperpigmentation & fine lines and provide you with even-toned skin as it boosts collagen production and improves the elasticity of your skin. Price: ₹ 1,299; Available at <https://www.mywishcare.com/>

Comment: Gift your sister a kit of glow this Raksha Bandhan.

Rating: 7/10



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