

Politics & Democracy

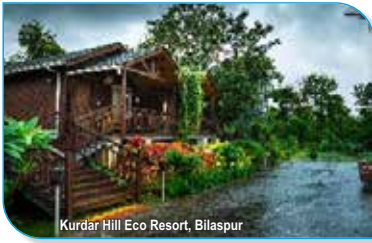
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India and United States: Bilateral Relationship to New Heights





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The Inaugural session of the 4th Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Tourism was held at Goa.



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G20 Education Working Group Meeting in Pune: Seminar Focuses on Achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy through Blended Learning

India's G-20 presidency takes center stage as a seminar on 'Ensuring Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' in the context of Blended Learning was held in Pune today, at Savitribai Phule Pune University. The seminar has been organized as part of the G20 4th Education Working Meeting. Around 50 delegates from 20 countries attended the Seminar.



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Air India Firms Up Orders for 470 Airbus and Boeing Aircraft

Air India, a Tata Group-owned global airline, signed purchase agreements to acquire 470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing, going one step further in its \$70 billion (based on list prices) fleet expansion program that it announced in February this year.



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Introducing Volvo EX30, the Electrified SUV that Proves Great Things Come in Small Sizes

In a remarkable display of unity and enthusiasm, India celebrated the 9th International Day of Yoga (IDY-23) on June 21, 2023. The theme for this year's events, 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' and 'Yoga from Arctic to Antarctica,' showcased the transformative power of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being across the globe. From the Western Naval Command to the Department of Land Resources, from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), various organizations joined hands to commemorate this significant day.



Participation of Indian Army Contingent in Multinational Joint Exercise "Ex Khaan Quest 2023" In Mongolia

A multinational peacekeeping joint exercise known as "Ex Khaan Quest 2023" has commenced in Mongolia, featuring the participation of military contingents and observers from more than 20 countries. The inauguration ceremony of the exercise was organized at the exercise location in Mongolia, with the honorable President of Mongolia, Mr. Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, officiating the event. The exercise is co-sponsored by the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and the United States Army Pacific

Command (USARPAC).

Representing the Indian Army in this endeavor is a contingent from the renowned GARHWAL RIFLES. The primary objective of this 14-day exercise is to enhance interoperability among the participating nations, facilitate the sharing of experiences, and provide training to uniformed personnel for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO). Through various components such as the Command Post Exercise (CPX), Field Training Exercises (FTX),

combat discussions, lectures, and demonstrations, the exercise aims to prepare participants for future UN Peacekeeping missions, develop their peace operations capabilities, and enhance overall military readiness.

This joint military exercise will significantly elevate the level of defense cooperation between the Indian Army and the participating countries, particularly with the Mongolian Armed Forces, thereby fostering stronger bilateral relations between the two nations.

NTPC: Top Workplace Choice for 2023-24

NTPC Ltd., the country's largest power generator, has been honoured with the prestigious title of "Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24" by Team Marksmen. The award recognizes NTPC's exceptional performance in various key areas, including Organizational Purpose, Employee Centricity, Growth, Recognition & Rewards, Intrapreneurial Culture, Work-life Balance, Diversity, Equality & Inclusion, Safety, and Trust.

This achievement reflects NTPC's unwavering commitment to achieving excellence in the development and management of its human resources through continuous

process improvement, engagement, and learning and development opportunities. CEO (UPL) & ED (HR) of NTPC, Sital Kumar along with other NTPC officials from the organization, received this esteemed recognition on behalf of the organization.

The company's progressive and "People before PLF" (Plant Load Factor) approach has contributed to making NTPC a preferred workplace, as evidenced by the numerous awards and recognitions it has received over the years as one of India's Best Employers. The awards, conducted by Team Marksmen in association with India



Today and Business Standard, are the result of a comprehensive consumer study conducted across the industry. NTPC's consistent success in these awards is a testament to its people practices, which are at par with the best companies in the world.

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84 Development Projects Commences in Srinagar Worth Rs. 586 Crore

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 84 development projects of about Rs.586 crore in Srinagar on 23rd June 2023

In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, a new milestone has been achieved in the development journey of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the foundation stone and inauguration of various development works of about Rs.586 crore have been done here which will benefit about 22 lakh people and will make their daily life easier. Shri Shah said that when pure drinking water reaches a house, it not only removes the problem of the woman who has to fetch water from far away, but also bring a qualitative improvement in the health of the whole family. Similarly, 100 schools are being modernized at par with the rest of the country so that the children of the valley are not deprived of modern education. He said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has decided to bring watershed changes in Jammu and Kashmir to give right of a happy life to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the Valley.

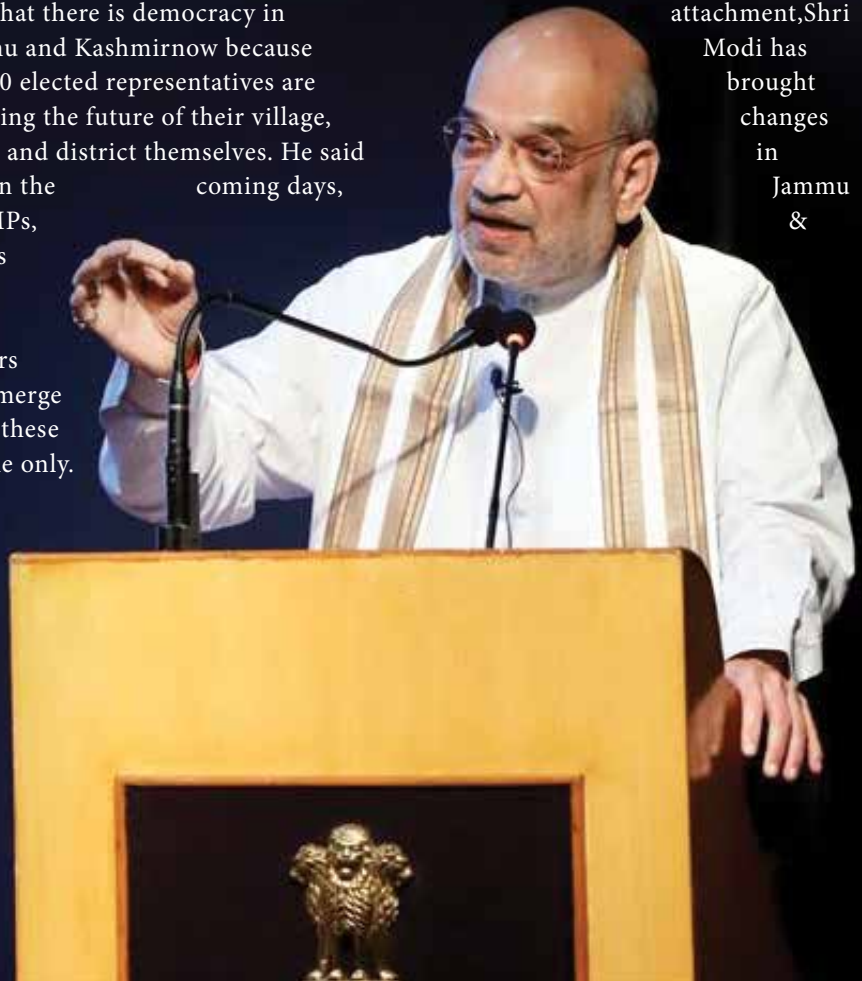
Shri Amit Shah said that the government led by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is taking care of the health expenses up to Rs. 5 lakh of any citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that this scheme has been implemented only for the poor across the country but for Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Modi has covered every citizen of UT by linking Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana with SEHAT. He added that in the last 5 years, under the leadership of Shri Modi a people-

oriented governance has been put at the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Home Minister said that during the rule of the previous governments in Jammu and Kashmir, democracy was limited to 80-85 people only and 3 families had taken control over the democracy. He said that these people did not allow panchayat elections, did not allow panch-sarpanch to be elected and did not allow tehsil and district panchayats to be formed. Shri Shah said that there is democracy in Jammu and Kashmir now because 35,000 elected representatives are deciding the future of their village, tehsil and district themselves. He said that in the coming days, the MPs, MLAs and new leaders will emerge from these people only. He said that the

government led by PM Modi has done the work of percolating democracy and strengthening it by bringing Panchayati Raj to the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Shah said that it is no longer a Jammu and Kashmir ruled by three families. He said that the introduction of Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir by Shri Modi has become a forever reality. He said that this change happens when there is attachment towards democracy and with this

attachment, Shri Modi has brought changes in Jammu &



Kashmir.

Shri Amit Shah said that Incidents of stone pelting, bandh incited by the neighboring country are becoming very rare and terror incidents have come under control in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that today schools, colleges, industries are running, 1.88 Crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, which is the biggest figure since independence. Shri Shah said that with such a large number of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir, in the next 5 years the number of hotel rooms in the region, especially the Valley, would be more than three times the present. He said that this change happens when there is dedication to bring about change. If someone comes to rule and enjoy the power, then he cannot bring about any change. Changes happen if mind is connected with the happiness, sorrow and progress of the people.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that lakhs of citizens have benefited from various small schemes in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is providing Rs. 6,000 every year in the bank accounts of over 12.45 lakh farmers of Jammu and Kashmir, so that they do not need to take loans. Shri Shah said that under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers of Jammu and Kashmir have received Rs. 100 crore in three years. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the work to provide fluoride-free tap water to over 11.96 lakh families has been completed. He said that there were over 13.80 lakh families who did not have toilets in their houses even after 70 years of independence, and the construction of toilets in these houses was completed in just 5 years. He said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra

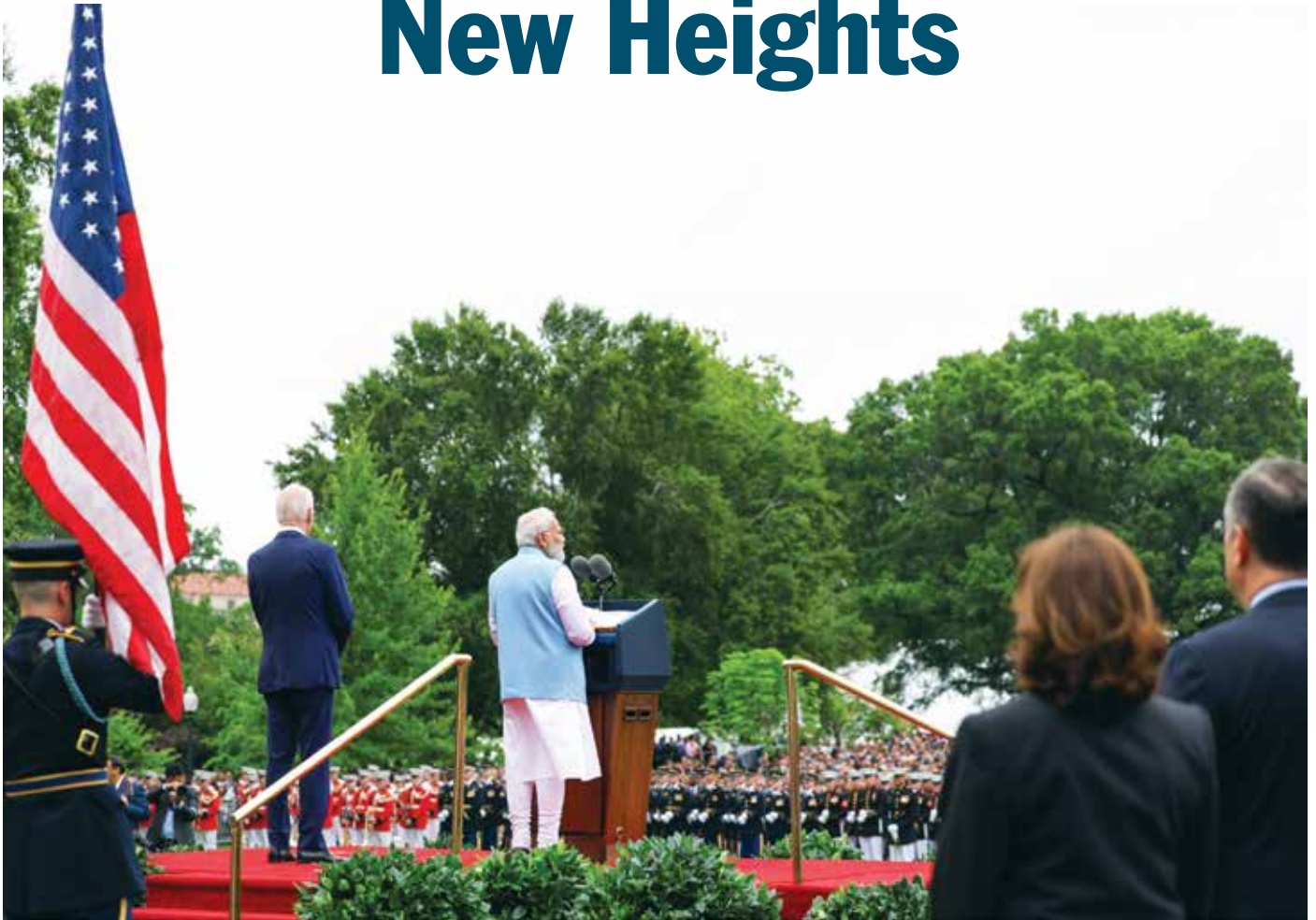
Modi is providing 5 kg rice per person per month free of cost to over 65.91 lakh people of Jammu and Kashmir. The government has also provided houses to about 1.86 lakh people. Under the DBT scheme, Rs. 23,000 crore have been transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in past four years. He said that earlier, the money used to get sanctioned but it never reached to the targeted beneficiaries. Shri Shah said that the public should ask how these people have built huge houses in foreign countries, where they go to celebrate summer holidays for 45-60 days. He said that Rs 23,000 crore, which has been deposited directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through DBT, was earlier siphoned off due to corruption, but now nobody can touch it.

Shri Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave AIIMS, IIMs, IITs and IIITs to Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the government want to make Dal Lake the most attractive tourist centre of the country, for which a scheme of about Rs. 85 crore has been formulated on preliminary basis. Children from across the country would like to visit Dal Lake and Tattoo Ground in the coming days. He said that it will help in exponentially increasing the tourism in J&K. Shri Shah said that under the Srinagar Smart City Limited, many projects including multi-level parking, smart lighting, integrated command and development of parks have been initiated with an expenditure of Rs. 345 crore. Many new medical colleges, degree colleges and nursing colleges have also been opened. He said that recently the G-20 conference was successfully organised in Srinagar, and the message of peaceful Jammu and Kashmir reached across the globe. He said that tourists from all

over the world will visit the region only when the changes taking place in Jammu and Kashmir are communicated properly and for this purpose, G-20 is a huge platform.

Union Home Minister said that under the Panchayati Raj System, the funds are now going directly to the Panchayat, which has given them the right to develop their village. He said that change is coming in Jammu and Kashmir. Appealing to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to join the change, the Union Home Minister said that there is a future in joining with the development of Jammu and Kashmir and the country by taking a laptop, not a weapon in hand. He said that the whole country and the world is looking towards the youth of the region. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir, especially of the Valley, should come forward and lead the process of change and work towards taking Jammu and Kashmir to new goals and height. He told the youth of the valley that those who put stones and weapons in their hands are not their well wishers. He said that the government is trying to improve their future by providing laptops, electricity, building roads, promoting tourism. Shri Shah said that change is the need of the hour and the youth from the valley should join hands with it. He told the youth that the change is waiting for them, the whole country is ready to take them forward, and the market of the whole world is open for the youth of the valley. He said that they should come forward and be apart of the change and take pledge to fulfil the resolution of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to build a new Kashmir. He said that those who do not seek change, are against the welfare of the youth. The world has moved ahead and now is the time for Jammu and Kashmir to walk along with the nation and the world.

India and United States: Bilateral Relationship to New Heights



In a landmark state visit, the Republic of India and the United States have elevated their bilateral relationship to new heights, solidifying a comprehensive partnership rooted in technological advancements, defense cooperation, and shared prosperity. The visit showcased the collaborative efforts of both nations in various domains, laying the foundation for a transnational technological alliance that promises to shape the future of both countries and the world. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Prime Minister Narendra Modi affirmed a vision of the United States and India as among

the closest partners in the world – a partnership of democracies looking into the 21st century with hope, ambition, and confidence. The U.S.-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership is anchored in a new level of trust and mutual understanding and enriched by the warm bonds of family and friendship that inextricably link our countries together. Together, we will build an even stronger, diverse U.S.-India partnership that will advance the aspirations of our people for a bright and prosperous future grounded in respect for human rights, and shared principles of democracy, freedom,

and the rule of law. Our cooperation will serve the global good as we work through a range of multilateral and regional groupings – particularly the Quad– to contribute toward a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific. No corner of human enterprise is untouched by the partnership between our two great countries, which spans the seas to the stars.

Introducing a vision for progress in the bilateral relationship, the leaders have affirmed that the document at hand represents the most expansive and comprehensive roadmap. Here's a glimpse:



A Technology Partnership for the Future:

The first pillar of this burgeoning alliance revolves around technological advancements, particularly in the semiconductor industry. With an investment of over \$800 million, Micron Technology, Inc., supported by the India Semiconductor Mission, is spearheading the establishment of a cutting-edge semiconductor assembly and test facility in India. This endeavor, complemented by Applied Materials' Semiconductor Centre for Commercialization and Innovation, and Lam Research's Semiverse Solution for semiconductor education, is set to accelerate India's semiconductor capabilities and bolster the global supply chain.

The partnership also extends to critical minerals, as India joins the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), a global initiative aimed at diversifying and securing critical energy minerals supply chains. In this regard, India's investment of \$650 million in a greenfield electric vehicle battery

component factory represents the largest-ever Indian investment in the U.S. electric vehicle battery industry, highlighting the commitment to sustainable economic development and fostering cooperation in advanced technologies.

Furthermore, India and the United States have embarked on a joint venture to revolutionize telecommunications through Open RAN systems. The collaborative research and development efforts will enhance the security, resiliency, and competitiveness of telecommunication networks, while also facilitating the scalability of this technology in international markets. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi hailed the signing of an MoU on the Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership as a significant step in the coordination of our countries' semiconductor incentive programs. This will promote commercial opportunities, research, talent, and skill development. The leaders welcomed an announcement by Micron Technology, Inc., to invest

up to \$825 million to build a new semiconductor assembly and test facility in India with support from the Indian government. The combined investment valued at \$2.75 billion would create up to 5,000 new direct and 15,000 community job opportunities in the next five years. The leaders welcomed 35 innovative joint research collaborations in emerging technologies funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST). Under a new implementation arrangement between NSF and DST, both sides will fund joint research projects in computer and information science and engineering, cyber-physical systems, and secure and trustworthy cyberspace. Furthermore, NSF and India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will bring fresh funding for joint projects in applied research areas such as semiconductors, next-generation communication, cybersecurity, sustainability and green technologies, and intelligent transportation systems.

Defense Partnership:

Underpinning the strategic partnership between India and the United States is a robust defense cooperation that seeks to enhance regional security and foster technological exchange. Notably, the groundbreaking proposal by General Electric (GE) to jointly produce the F414 Jet Engine in India signifies a significant milestone, allowing for the unprecedented transfer of U.S. jet engine technology. Additionally, India's intent to procure armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs will significantly bolster its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

The defense collaboration extends beyond equipment procurement to include sustained ship repair and maintenance activities. The Master Ship Repair Agreement with Larsen and Toubro Shipyard, as well as agreements with Mazagon Dock Limited and Goa Shipyard, will enable mid-voyage U.S. Navy ships to undergo cost-effective and time-saving sustainment activities in Indian shipyards, strengthening military operations across multiple theaters.

Furthermore, both nations have taken crucial steps to operationalize tools for increased defense cooperation, undersea domain awareness, and reciprocal defense procurement arrangements. These initiatives aim to bolster the partnership, enhance information sharing, and ensure supply chain resilience during unforeseen disruptions. The inauguration of the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) further facilitates joint innovation on defense technologies and fosters integration between the private sectors of both countries.

Strengthening Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges:

The state visit between India and the United States also emphasized the importance of cultural exchange and

people-to-people connections. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to promoting educational exchanges, fostering research collaboration, and enhancing cultural understanding. The Fulbright-Nehru Program, which provides scholarships for Indian and American students, researchers, and professionals, will be expanded to support more individuals in pursuing academic and cultural experiences in each other's countries.

Additionally, efforts will be made to promote tourism, with initiatives aimed at easing travel restrictions and enhancing visa processes. The launch of the "Destination India" campaign in the United States will highlight India's rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and vibrant tourism offerings, inviting Americans to explore and experience the beauty and hospitality of India.

Health Cooperation:

Recognizing the critical importance of global health cooperation, India and the United States have reaffirmed their commitment to work together in addressing health challenges. Both countries will collaborate on research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, with a particular focus on emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. Efforts to enhance health infrastructure and capacity-building will be prioritized, including initiatives aimed at strengthening primary healthcare systems, improving access to quality healthcare services, and promoting telemedicine and digital health solutions. Additionally, the United States and India will collaborate on addressing mental health challenges, leveraging technology and research to develop effective interventions and support systems. This partnership aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental health and improve the overall well-being of individuals in both countries.

Deeper collaboration was welcomed to secure and strengthen



pharmaceutical supply chains, with a focus on active pharmaceutical ingredients and vaccine-related materials. Strengthening global collaboration in research and development for medical products was emphasized. The leaders celebrated the collaboration between their health sectors and expressed the desire for deeper cooperation to secure pharmaceutical supply chains. They encouraged ongoing collaboration on pandemic preparedness, including training, laboratory strengthening, surveillance, and food safety. Collaboration on affordable cancer technology programs, diabetes research, and AI-enabled diagnostic tools was applauded. The leaders committed to holding a U.S.-India Cancer Dialogue to accelerate progress against cancer. They also called for expanded cooperation in digital health platforms, responsible use of AI, and exploration of traditional medicine. President Biden commended Prime Minister Modi's plan to eliminate



United States and India will sustain and grow quantum training and exchange programs and work to reduce barriers to U.S.-India research collaboration. The leaders welcomed the launch of a \$2 million grant program under the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment fund for the joint development and commercialization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum technologies and encouraged public-private collaborations to develop high-performance computing (HPC) facilities in India. President Biden also reiterated his government's commitment to work with the U.S. Congress to lower barriers to U.S. exports to India of HPC technology and source code. The U.S. side pledged to make its best efforts in support of India's Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) joining the U.S. Accelerated Data Analytics and Computing (ADAC) Institute.

Paris Agreement and Climate Cooperation:

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi have reiterated their dedication to the Paris Agreement and emphasized the need for global cooperation in addressing climate change. They support the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and pledged to work together for its success. The leaders recognize the importance of climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, welcoming collaboration between NOAA and IMD for improved forecasting and disaster preparedness.

They reaffirmed their commitment to the G20 Energy and Climate Ministerial Process, the G20 Principles for Green Financing, and the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The establishment of the U.S.-India Clean Energy Hub and the ACE Research and Development Program was applauded for advancing clean energy technologies. Public awareness and engagement in climate action were highlighted through the U.S.-India Climate Communications Initiative.

tuberculosis ahead of the UN's sustainable development goals target.

New Frontiers in Space Cooperation:

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi set a course to reach new frontiers across all sectors of space cooperation. They welcomed the decision of NASA and ISRO to develop a strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation by the end of 2023. The leaders hailed the announcement by NASA to provide advanced training to Indian astronauts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, with a goal of mounting a joint effort to the International Space Station in 2024. The leaders celebrated the delivery of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite to ISRO's U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, India, and looked forward to NISAR's 2024 launch from India. Welcoming India's Space Policy – 2023, the leaders called for enhanced commercial

collaboration between the U.S. and Indian private sectors in the entire value chain of the space economy and to address export controls and facilitate technology transfer. President Biden deeply appreciated India's signing of the Artemis Accords, which advance a common vision of space exploration for the benefit of all humankind.

Quantum Collaboration:

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi welcomed the establishment of a joint Indo-U.S. Quantum Coordination Mechanism to facilitate collaboration among industry, academia, and government, and our work toward a comprehensive Quantum Information Science and Technology agreement. The United States welcomes India's participation in the Quantum Entanglement Exchange and in the Quantum Economic Development Consortium to facilitate expert and commercial exchanges with leading, like-minded quantum nations. The

President Biden pledged continued collaboration to facilitate India's membership in the IEA. They also committed to securing critical minerals supply chains and welcomed India's participation in the MSP. Nuclear energy's role in decarbonization efforts was acknowledged, with ongoing negotiations for nuclear reactor construction. The leaders emphasized sustainable consumption and production, supporting Prime Minister Modi's LiFE initiative. They resolved to implement the G20 High-Level Principles for Sustainable Development.

Commitment to International Order, Peace, and Prosperity

The United States and India reasserted their dedication to the rules-based international order, highlighting its foundation on the UN Charter, international law, and respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Expressing grave concern over the conflict in Ukraine and its humanitarian impact, President Biden and Prime Minister Modi emphasized its global consequences on vital sectors such as food, fuel, energy security, and supply chains. They called for increased efforts to alleviate the effects of the conflict, particularly in the developing world. Both nations pledged ongoing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and stressed the importance of upholding international law, the principles of the UN Charter, and territorial integrity. Post-conflict reconstruction in Ukraine was also emphasized.

The United States and India reaffirmed their commitment to counter attempts at unilaterally undermining the multilateral system and stressed the need to strengthen and reform it to reflect current realities. They voiced support for comprehensive UN reform, including expanding both permanent and non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council (UNSC). President Biden reiterated U.S. backing for India's permanent membership in a reformed



UNSC and welcomed India's candidacy as a non-permanent member for the 2028-29 term. The goal is to enhance the effectiveness, representation, and credibility of the UNSC.

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi reiterated their commitment to strengthening the Quad as a partnership for global benefit. They applauded the progress made at the Hiroshima Summit among the four maritime democracies in advancing a constructive agenda for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. The leaders welcomed advancements in the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness, which entails sharing maritime data across the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific regions. They pledged to collaborate with regional platforms like the Indian Ocean Rim Association, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, and ASEAN to fulfill shared aspirations and address common challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. India welcomed the United States' participation in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, while President Biden welcomed India's continued involvement as an observer in the Partners in the Blue Pacific initiative.

Indo-Pacific and Trade:

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi welcomed increased consultations between the United States and India on regional matters, including South Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and East Asia. They eagerly anticipated the inaugural Indian Ocean Dialogue set for 2023.

Reiterating their dedication to a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, President Biden and Prime Minister Modi emphasized respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty, and international law. They expressed concern over coercive actions and escalating tensions, strongly opposing destabilizing or unilateral actions aimed at altering the status quo through force. Both leaders highlighted adherence to international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the maintenance of freedom of navigation and overflight. This approach addresses challenges to the rules-based maritime order, including in the East and South China Seas.

The importance of advancing trade and investment between the United States and India was emphasized. Both



leaders committed to working towards an ambitious and comprehensive bilateral trade agreement, considering the concerns and aspirations of both countries. They recognized the need to address barriers to market access and foster a favorable business environment for trade and investment. Transparent and predictable regulatory frameworks were also highlighted as essential for facilitating economic growth and innovation.

Economic Cooperation and Trade Partnership:

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi highlighted the significance of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in enhancing supply chains, clean energy, and economic progress through anti-corruption measures, efficient tax practices, and capacity building. They welcomed progress in negotiations on the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement and committed to concluding negotiations on agreements within the clean economy and fair economy pillars. President Biden extended an invitation for India to attend the APEC Summit in November 2023.

The leaders acknowledged the U.S.-India trade and investment partnership as a catalyst for global growth, with bilateral trade exceeding \$191 billion in 2022. They praised the reconvening of the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum, urging industries to act on recommendations for increased engagement and cooperation across various sectors. Continued engagement between the U.S. Treasury Department and the Indian Ministry of Finance, as well as collaboration in the insurance sector, were also supported.

Efforts were made to deepen bilateral cooperation and address trade issues. The resolution of outstanding WTO disputes and market access understandings was welcomed. Both leaders anticipated the resumption of the India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum to address trade concerns and explore further engagement. India expressed interest in reinstating its status under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences program, and progress on eligibility criteria was supported. Discussions were initiated on bilateral government procurement.

The U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue focused on expanding cooperation in talent, innovation, and inclusive growth. The "Innovation Handshake" concept, connecting startup ecosystems and addressing regulatory hurdles, was commended. The importance of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in inclusive growth and trade was emphasized, with plans for forums and showcases to promote their role. Collaboration between the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Indian Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises was applauded.

Aviation, Visa Facilitation, and Consulates:

The leaders welcomed Air India's agreement with Boeing to acquire American-made aircraft, promoting job creation and modernization in India's civil aviation sector. They appreciated

Boeing's investment in infrastructure and pilot training, aiming to meet India's pilot requirements and create synergies between defense and civil aviation.

The U.S. Department of State introduced a pilot program to streamline the renewal process for certain temporary work visas, including those for Indian nationals, with plans for expansion in 2024. This program aims to facilitate the renewal of H1B and L visas. The leaders recognized the importance of enabling the movement of professionals, students, investors, and business travelers between their countries. They emphasized the need to expedite visa processing and directed officials to identify mechanisms for smoother travel for business, tourism, and professional exchanges. Considering the growing strategic partnership and travel demands, both sides expressed their intention to open new consulates. The United States planned to open consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad, while India aimed to operationalize its consulate in Seattle and establish two additional consulates in mutually agreed locations in the U.S.

The leaders acknowledged the role of a social security totalization agreement in safeguarding the interests of cross-border workers and expressed their intent to continue discussions on the necessary elements for such an agreement.

The Republic of India's official state visit to the United States has laid the groundwork for a transformative transnational alliance that holds immense potential. As the partnership continues to evolve and deepen, it will contribute to the aspirations of both nations and serve the global good by addressing pressing challenges, fostering innovation, and promoting peace, prosperity, and a sustainable future. The alliance between the United States and India truly spans from the seas to the stars, impacting every corner of human enterprise. ■



4th Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20

The Inaugural session of the 4th Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Tourism was held at Goa.

The inaugural session was addressed by Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and DoNER Shri G.Kishan Reddy, Minister of State for Tourism Shri Ajay Bhatt; Minister of State for Tourism Shri Shripad Yesso Naik and Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant. Minister of Tourism in Goa Shri Rohan Khaunte graced the occasion.

A thematic discussion on 'Making India a Hub for Cruise Tourism' was also organised in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) today.

In the event discussions were held on successful practices of Cruise Tourism Promotion and Development, Development of River cruising, way forward in developing cruise Tourism.

'Draft strategy-Vision and Integrated Cruise Tourism Strategy for India' was unveiled at the side event by Shri G Kishan Reddy, Shri Shripad Naik and Shri Ajay Bhatt.

SHRI G.K REDDY, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, Government of India

In the past few months, G20 Tourism Working Group Meetings were held under India's Presidency and it includes first meeting at Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, second at Siliguri, West Bengal, third meeting at Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir and had some insightful, thought provoking and positive discussions on different types of tourism products with experts, innovators, and leaders from, across the world.

A visit to India, would be incomplete, without experiencing the beauty, greatness and richness of our spiritual strength and diversity of different places of the country. We are home to more than, 50 Shakti Peethas, where the divinity of women is worshipped. India is the birth place of Sikhism and we have the Sikh Golden Temple, Amritsar, which is a symbol of brother-hood and equality.

India is the birth place of the Buddhism and Jainism and has around 80% Hindu population. The 200 large Buddhist monasteries across India remind us of the Buddhist 6 principles of non-violence and the Jain philosophy of living in harmony with nature forms, the basis for the Government's Mission LiFE - Lifestyle For Environment.

Ensuring that rich heritage, and civilizational strength gets due recognition, our government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji, has been promoting tourism since 2014 and he is our very own Tourism Ambassador introducing, Indian tourism at a global level.

Since ancient times, travelling to India was an avenue for finding oneself and India has always been a popular destination for travellers from all corners of the globe seeking and Self-discovery. This has provided opportunities for people across 200 countries and varied faiths to experience India's Culture and Spiritual Heritage.

In India, in the spirit of our ancient philosophy of 'Athithi Devo Bhava' - where the guest is treated as divine, our foreign tourist arrivals after COVID 19 again have increased and Foreign Tourists during the period, January to April 2023 is 166% higher than arrivals registered during the last year same period in 2022. India is expected to recover its, inbound travel to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

The final meeting will provide us all, action points and recommendations for national and other governments, and other tourism stakeholders, to act upon to achieve, Sustainable Development Goals.

Currently our Indian government has two priorities: Sustainable infrastructure creation, to cater to the growing needs of the tourists, and Raising awareness among the tourists, for responsible consumption and adoption of an environmentally conscious lifestyle and through the launch of the G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard, a legacy has been created.

The dashboard being developed, shall promote policies and initiatives by the G20 countries, and guest countries in building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient sector. Together build a more diverse, resilient, and sustainable tourism sector for our future generation.

Indian government is making all the efforts to encourage and improve the cruise tourism and is working with whole of the sector approach. Government is working to ensure that in the coming days anyone can enjoy the experience of cruise tourism. We are coordinating with the various ministries, state governments, international organisations, stake holders and industry to bring about a revolution in Cruise Tourism. We have a coastal line of more than 7500 Kms, which we can explore through Cruise tourism.



SHRI PRAMOD SAWANT,

Chief Minister of Goa

As we have gathered today in Goa under the theme VasudhaivaKutumbakam we embark on the collective journey towards a more inclusive sustainable and prosperous world. Goa is famously known as the 'Pearl of the Orient' and has been attracting millions of domestic as well as foreign tourists annually. Goa is known for its beautiful beaches, vibrant Nightlife, thrilling adventurous sports, pristine western ghats and mesmerizing water-falls, serene backwaters, yoga and wellness retreats, delicious cuisine and the unique culture and heritage.

Goa is an all-season tourist destination where there is something for everyone in this coastal Paradise and tourists indulge in a various kinds of water sports and experience the vibrant nightlife attend musical events cultural programs and try out local cuisine.



SHRI AJAY BHATT,

Minister of State
for Tourism,
Government of
India



Tourism gives people the chance to learn about other cultures and empowers communities, which helps the economy grow. Creation of robust infrastructure at the destination boosted by enhancement in last mile connectivity has facilitated an increase of tourism experiences in the country.

Social media has also contributed a lot in promotion of lesser-known tourism destinations as tourists look out for enriching experiences combining thrill, pleasure, and cultural exchange.

It is interesting to note that India is a major hub for spiritual tourism and heritage tourism. I take immense pride in informing the esteemed gathering that the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India was started in 2014-2015 by the Ministry of Tourism in order to make pilgrimage destinations and heritage cities more appealing to tourists.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India also lays great focus on development of rural tourism destinations that aim to preserve and promote cultural and natural heritage while also making sure that tourism leads to sustainable development.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative brings the travel industry together for achieving a unified goal, that is to eradicate plastic pollution at its source. This requires collaborative and dedicated efforts from governments, industry players and other tourism stakeholders, thereby promoting sustainable tourism practices within the tourism industry.

During the thematic discussion 'Making India a Hub for Cruise Tourism' that with active collaboration among stakeholders and government initiatives under the visionary leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, India would establish itself as a renowned global destination for cruise tourism very soon.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK,

Minister of State for Tourism,
Government of India

Goa is the perfect holiday destination and is a colourful kaleidoscope of different things to see and do. It has serene landscape, palm-lined beaches, golden sands, lush green countryside, an amazing mosaic of wonderful cultural history, and a unique mix of east and west cultures.

The well-developed tourism infrastructure along the coastal areas and water bodies combined with favourable weather conditions aid in promoting adventure tourism in the country as is evident in the growing popularity of the segment amongst domestic and foreign tourists.

The National Strategy for Adventure Tourism has been launched to position India as a preferred adventure tourism destination and help adventure tourism grow in the country. This strategy focuses on developing adventure destinations, promoting safety in adventure tourism, skill development, capacity building and marketing.

Goa Roadmap for Tourism builds on the efforts of the G20 Tourism Working Group in the past three years and identifies five interconnected priority areas under the India's G20 Presidency of Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skill Development, Tourism MSMEs and Destination Management with corresponding recommended actions to progress the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

Goa Roadmap shall be a key guiding tool for creation of a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism sector.





Vikas Yatra

PM MODI'S VISIT TO UTTAR PRADESH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Uttar Pradesh on the 7th of July. This visit was marked by the dedication and foundation stone laying for various developmental projects.

The Government of India, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has taken significant strides towards the inauguration and commencement of various development projects in Uttar Pradesh.

The introduction of two Vande Bharat trains that enhance connectivity between Gorakhpur and Lucknow, as well as Jodhpur and Ahmedabad; the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Gorakhpur Railway Station, emphasizing the aim to modernize and expand the railway infrastructure for passenger convenience and inauguration of several other projects, including railway lines, road expansions, rural drinking water schemes, and the distribution of loans and Ayushman Bharat cards to beneficiaries. The Prime Minister's presence and the launch of these initiatives highlight the government's commitment to improving transportation infrastructure and promoting connectivity, contributing to the region's development and facilitating convenient travel for the people.

**Vande Bharat
trains**

The Prime Minister inaugurated and flagged off two **Vande Bharat trains** that connect Gorakhpur with Lucknow and Jodhpur with Ahmedabad (Sabarmati). These high-speed train services improve connectivity, reduce travel time, and promote ease of travel between these cities. Furthermore, he laid the foundation stone for the **redevelopment of Gorakhpur Railway Station**, aiming to modernize and expand the railway infrastructure in the region for the convenience of passengers. Accompanied by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt. Anandiben Patel, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, and Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur, Shri Ravi Kishan, the Prime Minister inspected the model of the proposed Gorakhpur Railway Station.

The Gorakhpur-Lucknow Vande Bharat Express will pass through Ayodhya, improving connectivity to important cities within the state and giving a boost to tourism. On the other hand, the Jodhpur-Sabarmati Vande Bharat Express will enhance connectivity to popular destinations such as Jodhpur, Abu Road, and Ahmedabad, fostering socio-economic development

in the region. The redevelopment of Gorakhpur Railway Station, estimated to cost around Rs. 498 crores, aims to provide world-class amenities to the passengers. This initiative will elevate the travel experience and improve the overall infrastructure of the railway station. Referring to his visit to Gorakhpur, the Prime Minister said that it is a wonderful example of development and heritage going hand in hand.

He mentioned that the pictures of the proposed railway station have created a buzz of excitement among the citizens. Referring to the Vande Bharat Express, the Prime Minister stated that it has elevated the levels of convenience for the middle class. Recalling the time when Ministers had to write letters to add a halt for a train in their region, the Prime Minister said that today Ministers are writing letters to flag off Vande Bharat Trains. "Vande Bharat Trains have become a craze", he added. Shri Modi congratulated the people of Gorakhpur and India for today's projects.

Underlining the country's desire for fast-running trains, the Prime Minister informed that even though

the Rajdhani Express ran for the first time in the country about 50 years ago, it could run only on 16 routes today. He also gave the example of Shatabdi Express which began 30-35 years ago but is currently running on 19 routes only. The Prime Minister highlighted the Vande Bharat Express and informed that the train is running on 25 routes in a short span of 4 years. “Banaras has the claim for the country's first Vande Bharat”, the Prime Minister added. He expressed confidence that the day is not far when Vande Bharat will connect every corner of the country. Throwing light on the unprecedented work carried out to improve the connectivity of Kashi in the last 9 years, the Prime Minister underlined that it has created many new employment opportunities. He noted that 7 crore tourists and devotees came to Kashi which was a 12-fold rise within one year, thereby creating better opportunities for income from rickshaw pullers, shopkeepers, to people working in dhabas and hotels and Banarasi saree industry. He also pointed out that the oarsmen benefited a lot and expressed amazement at the number of boats during the Ganga Aarti in the evening. “You people keep taking care of Banaras like this”, he said.

Public program in Varanasi

During the public program in Varanasi, the Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 12,100 crore.

The Prime Minister dedicated the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Junction - Son Nagar railway line of the Dedicated Freight Corridor. Built at a cost of more than Rs 6,760 crore, the new line facilitated faster and more



The beneficiary class has become an example of the truest form of social justice and secularism as the Government strives to take the benefits to the last man in every scheme.

Prime Minister

efficient movement of goods, three railway lines whose electrification or doubling had been completed at a cost of more than Rs 990 crore. These included the Ghazipur City - Aunrihar rail line, Aunrihar- Jaunpur rail line, and Bhatni- Aunrihar rail line. These projects helped achieve 100 percent electrification of railway lines in Uttar Pradesh.

The Prime Minister dedicated the **four-lane widening of the Varanasi-Jaunpur section of NH-56**, which had been completed at a cost of more than Rs 2,750 crore, making travel from Varanasi to Lucknow easier and faster.

Among the multiple projects in Varanasi that were inaugurated by the Prime Minister were the construction and renovation of **18 PWD roads**,

the **International Girls Hostel building** constructed at BHU campus, The **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)- Vocational Training Centre** at village Karsara, **residential buildings, amenities in Police Station Sindhaura**, PAC Bhullanpur, **Fire Station Pindra**, **Govt residential school Tarsada**, the **Economic Offences Research Organization building**, the **sewer line** from Mohan Katra to Konia Ghat, a modern septage management system in village Ramna, 30 double-sided backlit LED unipolar, a cow dung-based **bio-gas plant** at NDDDB Milk plant Ramnagar, and a unique **floating changing room jetty** at Dashashwamedh Ghat which facilitated the bathing of devotees in river Ganga.

3 two-lane rail overbridges (ROB) and renovation of 15 PWD roads

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction of **3 two-lane rail overbridges (ROB)** near Chaukhandi, Kadipur, and Hardattapur railway stations, the construction of Vyasnagar - Pt. **Deendayal Upadhyay Junction rail flyover**, and the construction and **renovation of 15 PWD roads**. These projects would be developed at a cumulative cost of about Rs 780 crore.

Jal Jeevan Mission

Shri Modi also laid the foundation stone of **192 rural**



Ayushman cards.

Revitalising Kashi

Upon arriving at the venue, the Prime Minister took a walkthrough of the model of Manikarnika and Harishchandra Ghats. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that life

drinking water schemes, to be built at a cost of more than Rs 550 crore, under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**. It would provide pure drinking water to 7 lakh people in 192 villages. The foundation has also been laid down for the redesigning and **redevelopment of Manikarnika and Harishchandra Ghats**. The redeveloped ghats would have provisions for public conveniences, waiting areas, wood storage, waste disposal, and eco-friendly cremation pyres.

PM SVANidhi and Ayushman Bharat cards

During the program, the Prime Minister also distributed loans under the **PMSVANidhi**, keys to PMAY Rural houses, and **Ayushman Bharat cards** to the beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh. This marked the Grih Pravesh of 5 lakhs PMAY beneficiaries, the distribution of 1.25 lakh PMSVANidhi loans to eligible beneficiaries, and the distribution of

becomes a blessing with the beginning of the pious month of Sravan, blessings of Lord Vishwanath, and Maa Ganga, and the presence of the people of Varanasi. The Prime Minister noted that thousands of Shiva devotees are turning up to Varanasi to offer 'Jal' and said that it is certain that the city will witness a record number of pilgrims. *"Those coming to Varanasi always return with a happy feeling"*, the Prime Minister said as he highlighted the hospitality of the citizens. He praised the people of Kashi for welcoming the delegates of G20 and keeping the premises of places of worship clean and grand.

Referring to the projects worth about 12000 crore rupees for which foundation stones were laid. *"This is an expansion of our resolution of providing a new body to Kashi while retaining its ancient soul"*, the Prime Minister said. He congratulated the people for the projects.

The Prime Minister, who had earlier interacted with the beneficiaries of various schemes, said that during the earlier times, the schemes were not connected with the grassroots. He

said that the current government has started a new tradition of dialogue and interaction with the beneficiaries, meaning 'direct benefit as well as direct feedback'. This has resulted in better performances by the departments and officers, he added. *"So many years after Independence, the true benefit of democracy has reached the correct people in the true sense"*, the Prime Minister continued.

The Prime Minister underlined that the beneficiary class has become an example of the truest form of social justice and secularism as the Government strives to take the benefits to the last man in every scheme.

This approach, the Prime Minister said, has led to the culling of commission seekers, brokers, and scamsters thereby eliminating corruption and discrimination.

In the last 9 years, the Prime Minister said, the Government has not worked just for one family and a single generation but worked towards improving the lives of future generations as well. He gave the example of PMAY where more than 4 crore families have been handed pucca homes. *"These homes instill a feeling of security and boost the self-confidence of the owners"*, the Prime Minister said as he highlighted that most of the homeowners are women who have had a property registered in their names for the first time. He said that these pucca houses provide a means of financial security to such women.

Continuing with the impact of the government schemes, the Prime Minister pointed out that Ayushman Bharat Scheme also is not limited to just free treatment worth 5 lakh, it impacts multiple generations as medical expenses can push generations into penury and debt. *"Ayushman Yojana is protecting poor people from this fate. That is why, I am striving so hard to ensure the availability of the card to every poor in a mission mode, he said. "The biggest claim on the resources of a*



nation is of the poor and deprived”, the Prime Minister said, mentioning the steps of financial inclusion like 50 crore Jan Dhan Accounts, and loans without collateral under the Mudra Scheme. This has benefited the poor, Dalit, deprived, backward, tribal, minorities, and women entrepreneurs.

Recalling his address from the Red Fort about freedom from the mentality of slavery and taking pride in our heritage, the Prime Minister said that the nation is moving forward while taking along both development and heritage. On the one hand, India is making new records in digital technology, while at the same time, the divine form of Vishwanath Dham in Kashi has also emerged after the redevelopment of Kashi Corridor. The Prime Minister mentioned building world-class infrastructure, while also witnessing the magnificence of pilgrimages like Kedarnath and Mahakal Mahalok. The Prime Minister also drew attention to the fact that the dream of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya is also going to be fulfilled after centuries. The new Naval Ensign showing the mark of the time of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He also touched upon renaming the Rajpath to the Kartavya Path to inspire the spirit of duty, development of Museums across the country to honor the tribal traditions and tribal freedom fighters, and restoring sacred ancient idols which were stolen and sent outside the country.

Welfare of the poor

The Prime Minister highlighted the basic dishonesty of the previous regimes leading to perpetual deficiency of funds. He said, “Whether it is Gareeb Kalyan or infrastructure, there is no shortage of budget. The same tax-payer, the same system, just the government has changed. As intentions changed, results also followed”, he said. News of scams and black marketing of the past have been replaced by the news of dedication and foundation stones of new projects. He gave the example of the Eastern Dedicated freight corridor, a project for a special track for goods trains, as an example of this change. In the last 9 years, a significant part of the project has been completed and goods trains are operating in that area. “Even today, the new Sonnagar section from Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction has been inaugurated. This will not only increase the speed of goods trains but many new employment opportunities will be created in Purvanchal and Eastern India”, he added.

Gita Press

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that in the pious month of Shraavan, and with the blessings of Indradev, he has got the opportunity to be present at Gita Press in Gorakhpur which is the worshiping place of Shiva Avatar Guru Gorakhnath and the workplace of many saints.

“Gita Press is not just a printing press but a living faith”, the Prime Minister said as he remarked that the office of Gita Press is no less than a shrine for crores of people. He said that with Gita comes Krishna, with Krishna, there is compassion and ‘karma’, and there is a sense of knowledge as well as scientific research. The Prime Minister said quoting the Gita, “Vasudeva Sarvam i.e. Everything is, from and in Vasudev.”

The Prime Minister emphasized that the spiritual light that lit up in the form of Gita Press in 1923 has become the guiding light of the entire humanity today. He thanked the good fortune for being able to witness the golden century of this humanitarian mission. On the historic occasion, the Prime Minister said, the government has conferred the Gandhi Peace Prize to Gita Press. Referring to Mahatma Gandhi’s emotional attachment to Gita Press, the Prime Minister informed that Gandhiji once used to write for Gita Press through Kalyan Patrika. He further added that it was Gandhiji who suggested that advertisements should not be published in the Kalyan Patrika and the suggestion is still being followed. He expressed delight that the country paid its respects to Gita Press by conferring the Gandhi Peace Prize as it honors the contribution and its 100-year-old legacy. In these 100 years, the Prime Minister continued, Gita Press has published crores of books which are sold at a price less than the cost and delivered door-to-door. He noted the spiritual and intellectual



satisfaction that this flow of knowledge must have provided to so many readers while also creating many dedicated citizens for society at the same time. The Prime Minister congratulated the personalities who have been contributing and cooperating in this Yagya selflessly without the need for any publicity and also paid tributes to personalities like Sethji Jayadaya Goyandka and Bhajji Shri Hanuman Prasad Poddar.

The Prime Minister underlined that an organization like Gita Press is not only associated with religion and work but also has a national character. “Gita Press connects India, strengthens India’s solidarity”, Shri Modi said as he informed about its 20 branches across the country. The Prime Minister mentioned that one can find Gita Press stalls at every railway station in the country. He informed that the Gita Press publishes 1600 titles in 15 different languages and propagates the basic thoughts of India to the masses in different languages. “Gita Press in a way represents the spirit of ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat’”, he asserted.

The Prime Minister pointed out that it is no coincidence that Gita Press has completed its journey of 100 years at a time when the country is celebrating 75 years of its independence. Highlighting the time before 1947 when India continuously made efforts in different fields for its renaissance, he said that different institutions took shape to awaken the soul of India. As a result, he continued, by 1947, India was completely ready to break the shackles of slavery with mind and soul. He noted that the establishment of Gita

Press also became a major base for it. The Prime Minister lamented the time when centuries of slavery had tarnished India’s consciousness a hundred years ago and foreign invaders burnt

India’s libraries. “The Gurukul and the Guru tradition were almost destroyed during the British period,” he said. He also threw light on the beginning of the disappearance of India’s sacred texts as the printing presses at the time were beyond the reach of the common man due to the high cost. “How would our society run without Gita and Ramayana? When the sources of values and ideals start drying up, the flow of society stops automatically”, the Prime Minister exclaimed.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the Bhagavad Gita has always become a source of inspiration when unrighteousness and terror have become strong, and the truth has been clouded with danger. Quoting the Gita, the Prime Minister explained that whenever there is a crisis on the authority of religion and truth, then God appears on earth to protect it. Referring to the tenth chapter of the Gita which explains about God appearing in any form, the Prime Minister said that sometimes organizations like Gita Press are born to revive human values and ideals. He said that Gita Press accelerated the flow of consciousness and thinking for India as soon as its establishment in 1923. He mentioned that our scriptures, including the Gita, once again started resonating in every household and our minds mixed with the mind of India. “Family traditions and new generations started connecting with these books, and our holy books started becoming the base for generations to come.

“Gita Press is proof that when your objectives are pure, your values are pure

then success becomes synonymous”, the Prime Minister said. He underlined that Gita Press as an institution has always enriched social values and shown the path of duty to the people. He gave examples of the cleanliness of the river Ganges, the science of Yoga, the publication of Patanjali Yoga Sutra, ‘Arogya Ank’ associated with Ayurveda, ‘Jeevancharya Ank’ to introduce people to the Indian lifestyle, ideals of service to the society, ‘Seva Ank’ and ‘Dan Mahima’. “Behind all these efforts, the inspiration of serving the nation has been attached, and there has been a resolve to build the nation”, Shri Modi added.

“The penance of saints never fails, their resolutions are never empty!”

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister said that the idea of a developed and spiritual India was given to us by our sages, and today one can see it becoming meaningful. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the spiritual practice of our saints and sages will continue to give such energy to the all-round development of India. “We will build a new India, and make our vision of world welfare a success”, the Prime Minister concluded.

Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur, Shri Ravi Kishan, General Secretary Shri Vishnu Prasad Chandgothia and Chairman Keshoram Agarwal of Trust Board of Gita Press were present on the occasion among others. ■

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The spiritual light that lit up in the form of Gita Press in 1923 has become the guiding light of the entire humanity today.



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G20 Education Working Group Meeting in Pune:

Seminar Focuses on Achieving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy through Blended Learning



India's G- 20 presidency takes center stage as a seminar on 'Ensuring Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' in the context of Blended Learning was held in Pune today, at Savitribai Phule Pune University. The seminar has been organized as part of the G20 4th Education Working Meeting. Around 50 delegates from 20 countries attended the Seminar.

Union Minister of State for Education and External Affairs Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, delivered the keynote address. The event was also graced by Shri Chandrakant Patil, Minister, of Higher and Technical Education, Maharashtra; Secretary of Higher Education, Government of India Shri K Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, of School Education Shri Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari; Member, NCF Steering Committee, Prof. Manjul Bhargava, G20 delegates, officials from International Organisations, and several senior officials of the Ministry of Education and State Education Departments.

Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, in his keynote address, shared how India's G20 EdWG Presidency is focused on building and carrying forward deliberations in past presidencies and on addressing concerns that are an impediment to realizing the full transformational potential of education by bridging gaps in quality education and skilling, as well as on accelerating the pursuit of the SDGs.

He shed light on how our National Education Policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual, as it is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities - both the 'foundational capacities' of literacy and numeracy and 'higher-order' cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem-solving - but also

social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions.

He stated that the ability to read and write and perform basic operations with numbers is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. The various surveys from across the globe suggest the challenge in education is the attainment of foundational literacy and numeracy. Attaining foundational literacy and numeracy for all children thus becomes an urgent priority for our educational systems requiring immediate measures to be taken on many fronts and with clear goals which will be attained in the short term (including that every student will attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3), Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh added.

Speaking at the occasion, Shri Sanjay Kumar expressed how the seminar is expected to help identify appropriate policies and practices adopted by countries in G20 member countries and other invitee countries. He said that the ensuing panel discussions would focus on issues related to curriculum, pedagogical approaches, capacity building of teachers and other stakeholders, and the role of parents and other caregivers and community members in supporting learning at home. He also highlighted the concurrent exhibition on the theme of Ensuring Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Digital Initiatives, Research, and Skilling being showcased presently, which we will be visited between sessions

by the delegates and other officials.

The event also featured a detailed presentation by UNICEF, on Foundational Learning and Numeracy pertaining to the theme. This was followed by an insightful presentation on Foundational Learning and Numeracy Practices in G-20 countries by Prof. Manjul Bhargava, who lauded the progress that has been made in FLN in the last 20 years, and the exponential increase in accessibility to education. The seminar witnessed three distinct sessions, with the first session featuring deliberations on the topic, Teaching Learning Approaches and Pedagogy for FLN in Blended Mode, chaired by Shri Sanjay Kumar. It included panelists from Spain, Australia, UAE, Indonesia, and South Africa.

This was followed by the second session, on the Role of Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members in supporting FLN (Home Learning), Socio-emotional Skills, and Health & Nutrition of Children, chaired by Ms. Aditi Das Rout, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, with USA and China delegates as panelists.

The third session focused on Capacity Building and Training of Teachers for FLN in the Context of Multilingualism, chaired by Smt Nidhi Chhibber, Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). The individuals on the panel included representatives from the United Kingdom, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Saudi Arabia, and UNICEF.

IIT Madras to Establish First International Campus in Tanzania, Africa



In a significant move to strengthen India-Africa relations, the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is all set to establish its first international campus in Africa. The announcement was made by the institute's director, V Kamakoti, during his address at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day. This landmark decision will pave the way for the establishment of the first-ever Indian Institute of Technology in Africa, with Tanzania being chosen as the host country.

The IIT Madras delegation, comprising five esteemed professors, visited Tanzania in February to hold discussions with government officials and lay the groundwork for the new campus. This visit marked the beginning of a collaborative effort between India and Tanzania to promote education and human resource development in Africa. The establishment of the IIT in Tanzania is not only a testament to India's growing interest in the African continent but also a demonstration of its commitment to fostering bilateral ties.

The establishment of an IIT in Tanzania holds immense significance for both countries. It will provide African students with access to world-class technical education, renowned for its quality, and empower them to build successful careers. By bridging the skill gap in Africa, the IIT campus in Tanzania will equip students with the technical skills and knowledge necessary to meet the demands of the industry. This will contribute to the development and growth of not only Tanzania but the entire African continent.

Furthermore, the IIT campus in Tanzania will encourage research and innovation in Africa. IITs are renowned for their emphasis on research and

development, and the establishment of this campus will foster a culture of innovation among African students. The resulting technological advancements and intellectual contributions will play a pivotal role in driving economic growth and development across the continent.

The IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, is expected to commence classes in October, offering courses in data science and artificial intelligence for its inaugural year. The campus will initially accommodate 50 undergraduate students and 20 postgraduate students. The admission process for IIT Zanzibar will include an entrance exam, a one-month preparation program, and individual interviews, ensuring a rigorous selection of talented students.

The President of Zanzibar, Hussein Mwinyi, expressed his anticipation and support for this project, recognizing its potential to transform education and contribute to nation-building. Following the successful initiation of the academic session, plans are underway to construct a permanent campus for IIT Zanzibar within the next five years.

The establishment of IIT Madras' international campus in Tanzania marks a significant milestone in the globalization efforts of the Indian Institutes of Technology. It sets a

precedent for other IITs to expand their presence globally, with campuses planned in Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur. This expansion reflects the growing recognition of IITs as premier educational institutions and their commitment to disseminating knowledge and expertise beyond national borders.

The Indian government's initiatives to promote knowledge and skill collaborations with African countries have played a crucial role in facilitating the establishment of the IIT campus in Tanzania. Through bilateral meetings and discussions, the government has emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange and skills development as key drivers of growth.

IIT Madras' decision to set up an international campus in Tanzania aligns with its vision to create an environment where students can become employers rather than employees. The institute aims to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency, encouraging students to transform their ideas into prototypes and startups that have the potential to become unicorns in the business world. This holistic approach to education empowers students to leverage their engineering skills with effective sales and marketing techniques, enabling them to succeed in the global business landscape.

As IIT Madras ventures into the African continent, it will serve as a beacon of technical excellence and innovation, setting the stage for a new era of collaboration and knowledge exchange between India and Africa.

Vice-President's Malaviya National



Address at Institute:

Honoring Teachers, Shaping Minds, and Empowering Nation

The Vice-President greeted the audience and began his address by sharing an ancient proverb गुरु गोविन्द दोऊ खड़े, काके लागू पाय | बलिहारी गुरु आपने, गोविन्द दियो बताय || He emphasized the lifelong bond between teachers and students, describing it as a transformative experience that shapes one's career and life. He acknowledged the role of a teacher in his journey, recounting how his teacher at Sainik School had helped him overcome language barriers and expand his knowledge. He recounted an incident where he received a call from his former teacher, expressing the strong connection and gratitude he felt towards his educators. The Vice-President emphasized the importance of teachers in creating human resources and acknowledged the support they now receive from the educational ecosystem due to government policies and initiatives. He stated that the quality of an institute is determined by its faculty rather than its infrastructure. He praised the Indian education system for producing globally recognized minds, attributing this success to the dedication and commitment of teachers. He expressed his admiration for teachers and urged society to respect and value them more. Mentoring students with dedication and commitment was highlighted as a challenging task, and he acknowledged the contributions of renowned figures like Dr. Radhakrishnan and Dr. Abdul Kalam, who were primarily known for their roles as teachers. The Vice-President appealed for society to prioritize and honor teachers beyond official protocols, emphasizing the positive impact they have on the development of individuals and humanity as a whole. He mentioned his recent visit to the University of Jammu and praised the satisfied faculty there, emphasizing the importance of providing necessary facilities to teachers and recognizing their innovative and motivational abilities.

He stressed that the success and progress of institutions, society, and humanity are closely tied to the role of teachers. He highlighted the connection between research, development, and creativity, stating that teachers play a crucial role in these areas. The Vice-President expressed his concern about some Indian faculty abroad who criticize and demean their own country. He also affirmed his belief that the majority of academia in India upholds the vision of the founding fathers and is committed to nationalism but urged them not to remain silent when a small minority misguides the institution. The Vice-President expressed criticism regarding the allocation of government funds to foreign universities, citing instances where large amounts were donated to outside agencies and foreign universities. He questioned the purpose and implications of such actions, highlighting the exceptional quality of Indian faculty and advocating for Indian funds to be directed toward Indian universities and colleges of excellence. He raised concerns about Indian-origin professors who criticize their own nation in the United States to enhance their image among others.

He emphasized the need for India to resist external calibration and asserted that the country should determine its own standards and values. He rejected the notion that freedom of speech is lacking in India, affirming that there is full freedom and a functioning democracy in the country. The Vice-President pointed out the smooth transfer of power and the strength of Indian institutions.

During interactions with Members of Parliament in the United Kingdom, he encountered their admiration for the efficiency of India's democratic process. Expressing disbelief at the tendency to question the fairness of elections only when one loses, he highlighted the need for

rational thinking.

Academia was encouraged to speak out and occupy a significant social space, recognizing its role as a neutral and influential force. The Vice-President urged the celebration of India's remarkable achievements and noted the country's impressive economic growth, attributing it to the contributions of teachers. He stressed the importance of respecting and acknowledging the influence of teachers and mothers.

He expressed confidence that the academic fraternity would counteract anti-national forces, particularly those influenced by individuals who previously held positions of power in academia. Criticism was directed towards the behavior of an economist who served in high-ranking positions in India but demonstrated a lack of awareness and appreciation for the country's progress. The Vice-President emphasized the significance of answers and guidance coming from teachers rather than politicians, emphasizing that the well-being of India should be at the center of political conduct. Gratitude was expressed for the opportunity to address the audience and acknowledge the bond created through the interaction. He announced two initiatives: the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Indian Council of World Affairs and the institution hosting the event, which would benefit faculty and students, and a coordinated visit to the new Parliament building for students and faculty. The global attention India receives was highlighted, along with praise for the accomplishments of the Modi Government, particularly during the COVID-19 period. The Vice-President stated that India would become a world leader by 2047, based on discussions with global leaders he had met in Qatar and London.

University of Jammu Graduates Celebrate Convocation Ceremony with Vice President's Motivational Address

The Vice President expressed his greetings to everyone present and stated that he felt supercharged, energized, motivated, inspired, and optimistic, believing that his optimism would manifest in reality. He mentioned his delight in visiting the extraordinary region of Jammu for the first time as Vice President of India, stating that it would be a memorable experience. The Vice President described the enchanting atmosphere created by the Chandrabhaga River, the majestic Shivalik range, and the sacred abode of Mata Vaishno Devi, emphasizing that this visit and the intellectual feast would invigorate him for a long time.

He considered it an honor and privilege to be associated with the special convocation of the renowned Jammu University, which had fostered excellence for over fifty years. He acknowledged the university's motto, "तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय" (Lead me from darkness to light), and highlighted the importance of striving to become outstanding professionals as well as beacons of compassion and kindness for humanity. He praised the thought-provoking and groundbreaking mantra imparted by the Honorable Lieutenant Governor.

Recalling his election as a Member of Parliament in 1989, the Vice President reflected on the disappearance of VCRs, VCDs, and telephone booths, noting the transformative impact of technology. He appreciated the Lieutenant Governor's insight and highlighted the need for creativity, innovation, and adaptability, referring to the evolving technological landscape. He acknowledged the Lieutenant Governor's reflection on artificial intelligence, recognizing its potential while also emphasizing the importance of regulation to prevent any negative societal impact. He regarded

the Lieutenant Governor's address as a turning point in the lives of the audience, urging them to approach the outside world with open eyes, a functional mind, and preparedness for significant changes. The Vice President commended the University of Jammu for its progress, from its modest campus on Canal Road to its current lush green surroundings. He extended congratulations to the Chancellor, Honorable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and Vice-Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai for their efforts in implementing the National Education Policy effectively. He expressed appreciation for the university's focus on promoting the local language and culture, particularly their initiatives to preserve and propagate Dogri. He emphasized the need to nurture and make functional use of India's rich cultural languages, considering it a positive step for other institutions to emulate. Additionally, he lauded the university's translation of the Indian Constitution into Dogri and the organization of the "Duggar Darpan" multi-arts festival.

Drawing from his experience as Chairman of the Eastern Zone Cultural Centre and Governor of West Bengal, the Vice President recognized the significance of cultural initiatives in fostering connections and nurturing genuine talent. He expressed optimism for the success of the university's programs and acknowledged the visionary approach of the Honorable Prime Minister, particularly his emphasis on the "Land to Lab" and "Lab to Land" concepts. He anticipated that the university's initiatives, such as the "College on Wheels," would provide valuable experiences and exposure for students.

The Vice President expressed admiration for the University of Jammu's innovative program, "Design Your Degree," stating that it allows students to shape their

own academic journey. He believed that this approach would gain popularity and positively impact education.

He then mentioned the university's recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the High Altitude Warfare School of Army at Gulmarg in the field of Disaster Management. The Vice President highlighted India's expertise in disaster management and the potential of this collaboration to produce skilled professionals.

The Vice President went on to share his excitement about an upcoming MoU between the University of Jammu and the Indian Council for World Affairs, which would provide the university with global exposure in cultural education and foreign affairs. He had discussed this idea with the Director of the Indian Council for World Affairs, who showed enthusiasm for the collaboration.

Addressing the graduating students, the Vice President congratulated them on their achievements and encouraged them to leave a positive impact on society, support their alma mater's growth, and pursue their dreams. He acknowledged the favorable ecosystem that allows young people to unleash their potential and advised them not to fear failure but to persevere in their endeavors. He emphasized that failure should be seen as an attempt rather than a definitive outcome and that historical milestones are rarely achieved on the first try. The Vice President stated that the future of India is in the hands of the students and commended their talent and commitment, highlighting how Indian startups and unicorns have surpassed those of China and the United States.

Air India Firms Up **Orders for 470 Airbus and Boeing Aircraft**

Air India, a Tata Group-owned global airline, signed purchase agreements to acquire 470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing, going one step further in its \$70 billion (based on list prices) fleet expansion program that it announced in February this year. The purchase agreements were signed on the sidelines of the ongoing Paris Air Show.



Air India's firm orders include 34 A350-1000, six A350-900, 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners and 10 Boeing 777X widebody aircraft, as well as 140 Airbus A320neo, 70 Airbus A321neo and 190 Boeing 737MAX narrowbody aircraft. Satair, an Airbus company, and Boeing Global Services will support Air India with a broad range of solutions, including parts and maintenance provisioning, digital applications, and

modification services.

The Airbus A350 will lead the deliveries of the new aircraft later this year, with the bulk of the order to arrive from mid-2025 onwards.

Air India has already started taking delivery of 11 leased B777 and 25 A320 aircraft to accelerate its fleet and network expansion.

Christian Scherer, Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International at Airbus

We are excited to be a key partner in the reinvention of the Flying Maharaja. Under the leadership of the Tata Group and a focussed new management, this is one of the most ambitious projects in the airline business today. We are proud that the efficiencies, comfort and range capability offered by our latest generation aircraft will contribute to the process, as Air India reclaims its rightful position as a world-class premium carrier. The Airbus services package is a perfect future-oriented choice that will form a core element of Air India's transformation.



Campbell Wilson, CEO & MD, Air India

Our ambitious fleet renewal and expansion programme will see Air India operate the most advanced and fuel-efficient aircraft across our route network within five years. We are proud to be working with all our partners in this journey to rebuild a global airline which reflects India taking a more confident posture around the world.



Stan Deal, President and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes

The fuel-efficient mix of next-generation airplanes including the 737 MAX, 787 Dreamliner and 777X will sustainably power Air India's future fleet in the world's fastest growing commercial aviation market.



N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons and Air India

This landmark step further positions Air India for long-term growth and success that, we have every hope, will come together to represent the best of modern aviation to the world.



IndiGo Orders 500 Airbus A320 Family Aircraft



IndiGo defining its future well into the next decade to become a global aviation player

IndiGo, India's most preferred airline, is further defining its long-term future, well into the next decade, by placing a firm order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft. This will provide IndiGo a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035. This 500 aircraft order is not only IndiGo's largest order, but also the largest-ever single aircraft purchase by any airline with Airbus. The engine selection for this order will be done in due course and so will be the exact mix of A320 and A321 aircraft.

Today IndiGo operates over 300 aircraft and has previous orders totaling 480 aircraft which are yet to be delivered between today and the end of this decade. With this additional firm order of 500 aircraft for 2030-2035, IndiGo's order-book has almost 1,000 aircraft yet to be delivered well into the next decade. This IndiGo order-book comprises a mix of A320NEO, A321NEO and A321XLR aircraft.

The evaluation of the offers was shared and discussed with IndiGo's Board, and consequently endorsed. This new order will bring the strategic relationship between IndiGo and Airbus to an unprecedented depth and breadth. With this new order, since its inception

in 2006, IndiGo has ordered a massive total of 1,330 aircraft with Airbus.

The fuel-efficient A320NEO Family aircraft will allow IndiGo to maintain its strong focus on lowering operating costs and delivering fuel efficiency with high standards of reliability. The young and fuel-efficient fleet will help IndiGo realize its sustainability ambitions, building on the already realized CO2 reduction of 21% between FY16 and FY23.

This year IndiGo expects to welcome 100 million customers on board and as such literally giving wings to the nation. IndiGo is amongst the fastest-growing airlines in the world and this order will allow it to continue this growth for many years to come.

The Indian economy is expected to further grow from being the world's 5th largest today to being the 3rd largest before the end of this decade. For aviation specifically, the Honorable Prime Minister Modi has stated his mission to ensure that by 2030 India comes into her own on the world stage of aviation leadership by building cutting-edge infrastructure and developing India into a global aviation hub. With IndiGo's current fleet and the almost 1,000 aircraft yet

Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo

It is difficult to overstate the significance of IndiGo's new historic order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft. An orderbook now of almost 1,000 aircraft well into the next decade, enables IndiGo to fulfill its mission to continue to boost economic growth, social cohesion and mobility in India. At IndiGo, we take pride in being India's preferred airline for connectivity in and with India; and by doing so, being one of the leading airlines in the world. This order strongly reaffirms IndiGo's belief in the growth of India, in the A320 Family and in our strategic partnership with Airbus.



to be delivered, IndiGo is not only well positioned to expand and densify its unparalleled network but equally importantly, IndiGo will execute its role in fully supporting and fulfilling this mission.

The purchase agreement was signed on June 19th at the Paris Air Show 2023 in the presence of V. Sumantran, Chairman of the Board of IndiGo, Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, Guillaume Faury, CEO of Airbus, and Christian Scherer, Airbus' Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International. ■



Emirates announced that its highly sought-after Premium Economy offering will be available to customers flying from Mumbai and Bengaluru, starting 30 October.

Emirates to Offer Premium Economy on Routes from India

Emirates will operate its newly retrofitted flagship A380 aircraft from the two Indian points, featuring the new Premium Economy seats, as well as refreshed interiors that provide an elevated experience in all other cabin classes.

Travellers flying on the Dubai-Mumbai route can book Emirates' Premium Economy seats on EK500/501, while customers flying between Dubai and Bengaluru can book their flights on EK568/569 to enjoy the industry's latest premium economy product with luxurious seats, more legroom, and an elevated dining experience. Seats can be booked immediately via [emirates.com](https://www.emirates.com), Emirates sales offices and travel agencies, for travel from Mumbai or Bengaluru on 30 October.

As the roll out of the retrofitted and enhanced Emirates A380s featuring a four-class configuration picks up pace, Premium Economy will be deployed on flights to more global destinations.

Premium Economy already features on flights to nine destinations globally,

including US points New York JFK, San Francisco and Houston, in addition to London Heathrow, Sydney, Auckland, Christchurch, Melbourne and Singapore. Premium Economy cabins will also make their debut to Los Angeles in July, bringing the number of routes offering the distinctive product to 12 by the end of 2023.

The refurbishments and aesthetic enhancements that can be enjoyed by passengers on their journeys on the retrofitted A380 aircraft include a blend of beautiful designs and new colour palettes, evident throughout the aircraft, in the carpeting, wall panels, and wood finishing.

The Emirates A380 is loved by customers for its spacious and comfortable cabins, quietness, and unique on-board features such as the Onboard Lounge and First Class Shower Spa. Customers can also enjoy award-winning inflight entertainment on ice with more than 5,000 channels of on-demand entertainment via the industry's largest screens across all cabins.

Mohammed Sarhan,
Emirates VP for India and
Nepal

We are excited to roll out our much-awaited offering, Premium Economy, to our valued customers in India.



The elevated travel experience is sought-after by passengers across our network, whether travelling for leisure or business, and we are delighted to extend it to the two points in India which are served by our iconic A380 aircraft – Bengaluru and Mumbai.

The launch of our new premium cabin is part of our “fly better” promise and provides more choices to our customers when travelling to Dubai and beyond, allowing them to enjoy memorable travel experiences, with new levels of passenger comfort and luxuries on flights. In addition to the introduction of Premium Economy on the retrofitted aircraft, customers across all cabins can enjoy the refreshed interiors which sport Emirates' signature ghaf tree motif.



flydubai Touches Down in Olbia

flydubai, the Dubai-based carrier, celebrated its inaugural service to Olbia, becoming the first UAE carrier to operate direct flights from Dubai. This marks the start of the carrier's three-times weekly service to Olbia Costa Smeralda Airport (OLB) as part of its seasonal operations, growing its network in Italy to five points including Catania, Milan-Bergamo, Naples and Pisa.

The inaugural flight landed at Olbia Costa Smeralda Airport (OLB) to a water cannon salute and warm welcome by airport officials.

Silvio Pippobello, Chief Executive Officer of Olbia Costa Smeralda Airport, said: "thanks to flydubai's extensive network, today's inaugurated connection significantly enhances the connectivity of the island for the benefit of the region and the local population, while also providing a crucial opportunity for our tourist

destination to officially open up to the global market. Starting from today, in fact, Sardinia can be easily reached with just one stop from every corner of the planet. We thank the airline for believing in our destination, the region of Sardinia for the valuable support, the Sardinian airports that have collaborated in achieving this milestone, and all the stakeholders who are working to make this flight a success."

Olbia joins flydubai's network of seasonal summer destinations which

include Batumi, Bodrum, Corfu, Dubrovnik, Mykonos, Santorini, Tivat and Trabzon.

The carrier's 737 MAX aircraft feature Business Class seats that provide exceptional comfort. Passengers can also enjoy an enhanced travel experience with internationally inspired menus and hours of immersive inflight entertainment. Economy Class offers new seats which are designed to optimise space and comfort so that passengers can sit back, relax and enjoy their flight.

Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai

We are committed to opening up underserved destinations and we are excited to offer our customers more options for travel during the summer with the launch of flights to Olbia in Sardinia. Since 2018, when we first started operations to the region, Italy has been a popular destination for customers from the UAE and GCC and we look forward to offering more options for travel as flydubai enters another record-breaking summer.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Chief Executive Officer of Olbia Costa Smeralda Airport, Silvio Pippobello, the tourism board in Sardinia and other key stakeholders for their support and look forward to enhancing connectivity between the UAE and Italy.



Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai

With the launch of flights to our fifth destination in Italy, we look forward to offering more convenient and reliable options for passengers travelling between Dubai and Olbia. Our flights will be operated by our Boeing 737 MAX aircraft where passengers can enjoy a comfortable travel experience, whether they choose to travel in Business Class or Economy Class.



Apple Vision Pro: Redefining How We See and Interact with Technology



Apple has introduced a remarkable innovation called Apple Vision Pro, a spatial computer that seamlessly merges digital content with the physical world. This groundbreaking device enables users to remain present and connected while experiencing an infinite canvas for apps that goes beyond the limits of traditional displays. With a fully three-dimensional user interface controlled by natural and intuitive inputs such as eyes, hands, and voice, Vision Pro revolutionizes the way users interact with digital content. Let's delve into some of the extraordinary features of this cutting-edge device.

A New Dimension in Computing Experiences:

Vision Pro, powered by the world's first spatial operating system, visions, allows users to interact with digital content as if it were physically present in their space. The device boasts the largest-ever ultra-high-resolution display system, with an impressive 23 million pixels across two displays. This ensures that every experience feels real-time and immersive, creating an unparalleled visual experience.

Engaging Entertainment and Productivity:

With Vision Pro, users can transform any space into a personal movie theater, enjoying movies, TV shows, and immersive videos on a screen that feels as wide as 100 feet. The advanced Spatial Audio system enhances the audio experience, making it feel like the sound is coming from all directions. Vision Pro also offers a new realm of gaming possibilities, with immersive games and support for popular game controllers. On



the productivity front, visionOS provides infinite screen real estate, access to favorite apps, and seamless multitasking. Users can even connect Magic Keyboard and Magic Trackpad to create an expansive 4K workspace.

Captivating Memories and Spatial FaceTime:

Vision Pro introduces Apple's first three-dimensional camera, enabling users to capture, relive, and immerse themselves in favorite memories. Photos and videos come to life with Spatial Audio, transporting users back to cherished moments. Additionally, FaceTime calls become spatial experiences, with life-sized tiles reflecting participants and Spatial Audio creating the illusion of speaking from their actual positions. Users can enjoy shared activities like watching movies or browsing photos during FaceTime calls.

Revolutionary Operating System and User Interface:

Built upon the expertise of macOS, iOS, and iPadOS, visionOS is a revolutionary operating system designed specifically for spatial computing. It offers a brand-new three-dimensional interface that seamlessly integrates digital content into the physical world. The input system is controlled by natural gestures, including eye movements, finger taps, wrist flicks, and voice commands, providing a truly intuitive

and immersive user experience. EyeSight, an extraordinary feature, helps users stay connected by making the device feel transparent when interacting with others.

Breakthrough Design and Unrivaled Hardware:

Apple Vision Pro showcases an unparalleled combination of design and performance. The device features a compact and wearable form factor, incorporating a three-dimensional formed and laminated glass that acts as an optical surface for cameras and sensors. The custom aluminum alloy frame ensures a comfortable fit, and flexible straps and a three-dimensionally knitted Head Band provide cushioning and breathability. The display system, powered by Apple silicon, delivers exceptional visual quality with micro-OLED technology and catadioptric lenses.

Industry-Leading Privacy and Security:

As with all Apple products, privacy and security are at the forefront. Apple Vision Pro incorporates Optic ID, a secure authentication system that analyzes the user's iris while safeguarding their data with encryption. Eye-tracking information remains private and is not shared with third-party apps or websites. Furthermore, camera and sensor data is processed at the system level, ensuring a high level of privacy protection.

Apple Vision Pro is a groundbreaking device that ushers in a new era of spatial computing. With its unrivaled features, revolutionary operating system, and cutting-edge design, Vision Pro unlocks limitless possibilities for users and developers alike. ■

Discover the All-New Motorola Razr Ultra 40/Razr+ and Its 4 Cutting-Edge Features!



Motorola expresses its commitment to delivering distinctive innovations to its consumers and emphasizes the significance of purposeful innovation that caters to consumer needs and offers practical functionalities. Explore some noteworthy features of the recently launched Motorola Razr Ultra 40/Razr+.

1. Enhanced Functionality Without Opening: Consumers expressed a desire for increased functionality from the external display. As a response, Motorola equipped the Razr Ultra 40/Razr+ with the largest and most advanced external display on a modern flip smartphone*. This display not only offers a larger size but also expanded capabilities for productivity, gaming, entertainment, and personalization. Users can now watch their favorite shows, take selfies, and receive directions using the large 3.6" 144Hz external display. Furthermore, they can type quick replies with the built-in keyboard or access a dedicated Spotify panel to switch playlists, discover new stations, and explore recommended artists and playlists. Seamless continuation of activities from the internal to the external display is also possible when the device is closed.

2. Personalization: Customization is a top priority for Motorola's



consumers. To meet their needs, the Razr Ultra 40/Razr+ provides users with a variety of options, including colorful live wallpaper designs, moto clock styles, navigation shortcuts, and customizable panels. This enables users to arrange their devices according to their preferences and create a personalized experience.

3. Simplified Content Capture: Recognizing the growing importance of quick content capture, Motorola prioritized content creation in the design of the Razr Ultra 40/Razr+. The device features Flex View, which allows users to stand the phone on its own at multiple angles, providing built-in tripod capabilities on the go. This opens up new possibilities for interaction, capture, and creation. With high-quality cameras, AI face tracking, hands-free recording, and previews on the large external display, users can effortlessly produce impressive social media content.

4. Exceptional Camera Features: The Motorola Razr Ultra 40/Razr+ is equipped with a powerful 12MP main camera sensor, featuring Instant Dual Pixel PDAF for faster and more accurate performance in various lighting conditions. Additionally, the device offers new camera software features. Capturing stunning selfies is made simple with the Photo Booth feature, allowing users to preview and capture four different poses in perfectly timed pictures triggered by a simple open-palm gesture. Users can also utilize the large external display as a mirror before taking selfies with the high-quality cameras, which offer 3x zoom capability for capturing intricate details.

Moreover, the Motorola Razr Ultra 40/Razr+ maintains the iconic flip smartphone design that introduced engineering breakthroughs. It strikes a perfect balance between style and innovation, and when flipped closed, it is the thinnest flippable smartphone in the industry compared to other foldable devices in the market. The reimagined hinge mechanism ensures a virtually creaseless, smooth, and seamless touchscreen experience when opened. The device's color options, matte glass or vegan leather finish, and choice of materials contribute to an ultra-sleek, modern look and feel when closed. ■



Rebirth of a Star: Mercedes-Benz Unveils the Timeless and Iconic SL in India

Mercedes-Benz, renowned for its automotive desire and fascination spanning over seven decades, proudly presents the all-new SL, a masterpiece that embodies timelessness and sophistication. This latest iteration, the SL 55 4MATIC+ roadster, marks a significant milestone as the first SL model entirely developed by AMG, delivering heightened sportiness, luxury, and expressive design.

Santosh Iyer, Managing Director & CEO of Mercedes-Benz India, expresses his excitement about the launch: "The SL is an iconic and timeless masterpiece, manifesting automotive desire and fascination associated with Mercedes-Benz for the last seven decades. From the racetrack to the high-end lifestyle, the SL resonates with the customers' aspirations of every generation across the globe, and we are thrilled to launch the AMG SL Roadster in India. For the first time in history, the SL is developed entirely by Mercedes-AMG in Affalterbach, offering a roadster that blends performance luxury, and extravagant design in perfect harmony. The launch of the AMG SL 55 firmly reiterates the increasing customer affinity for desirable luxury cars from Mercedes-Benz and underlines the success of our Top End Vehicle strategy."

Key Features of the Mercedes-Benz AMG SL 55 4MATIC+:

Powerful Performance: Equipped with a twin-turbocharged Petrol V8 engine, generating 350 kW of power and an impressive torque of 700 Nm. It reaches a top speed of 295 km/h.

Timeless Design: The luxurious roadster retains the classic soft-top design, combining the modern Mercedes-Benz design philosophy with the sportiness typical of AMG. Its long bonnet, steeply raked windshield, charismatic rear end, and large alloy wheels exude power and dynamism. The seamlessly integrated soft top enhances the purist and sporty impression.

Exemplary Aerodynamics: The new SL focuses on high aerodynamic efficiency, striking a perfect balance between low drag and reduced lift. Extensive active aerodynamic elements contribute to handling stability, drag reduction, cooling, and wind noise, ensuring a consistent driving experience whether the top is up or down.

Lightweight Construction: The bodyshell of the Mercedes-AMG SL adopts an intelligent mix of steel, magnesium, fiber composites, and aluminum, providing both maximum rigidity and exceptional performance. The lightweight construction sets new standards for SL's driving dynamics.

Performance Luxury Interior: The interior of the new SL combines analog geometry and the digital world, creating a "hyper analogue" cockpit experience.

The fully digital instrument cluster, sculptural seat design, and progressive seam and quilting patterns harmonize high-tech, performance, and luxury.

Handcrafted Excellence: Following the "One Man, One Engine" principle, the SL 55's V8 engine is meticulously assembled by hand in Affalterbach. With an output of 350 kW (476 hp) and a peak torque of 700 Nm, this powerful engine enables the roadster to accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in just 3.9 seconds.

Enhanced Traction and Handling: The SL 55 is equipped with fully variable AMG Performance 4MATIC+ all-wheel drive, offering optimal traction and handling stability. The intelligent torque distribution between the front and rear axles ensures excellent performance and safety in any driving condition.

The Mercedes-AMG SL 55 4MATIC+ starts from INR 2.35 Cr. onwards..

Mercedes-Benz India launches the iconic and timeless SL, setting a new benchmark in the luxury sports car segment. This modern masterpiece combines captivating design, cutting-edge technology, and exceptional driving dynamics, upholding the legacy of the SL as one of the most coveted automotive icons in the world. ■

Rock Painting

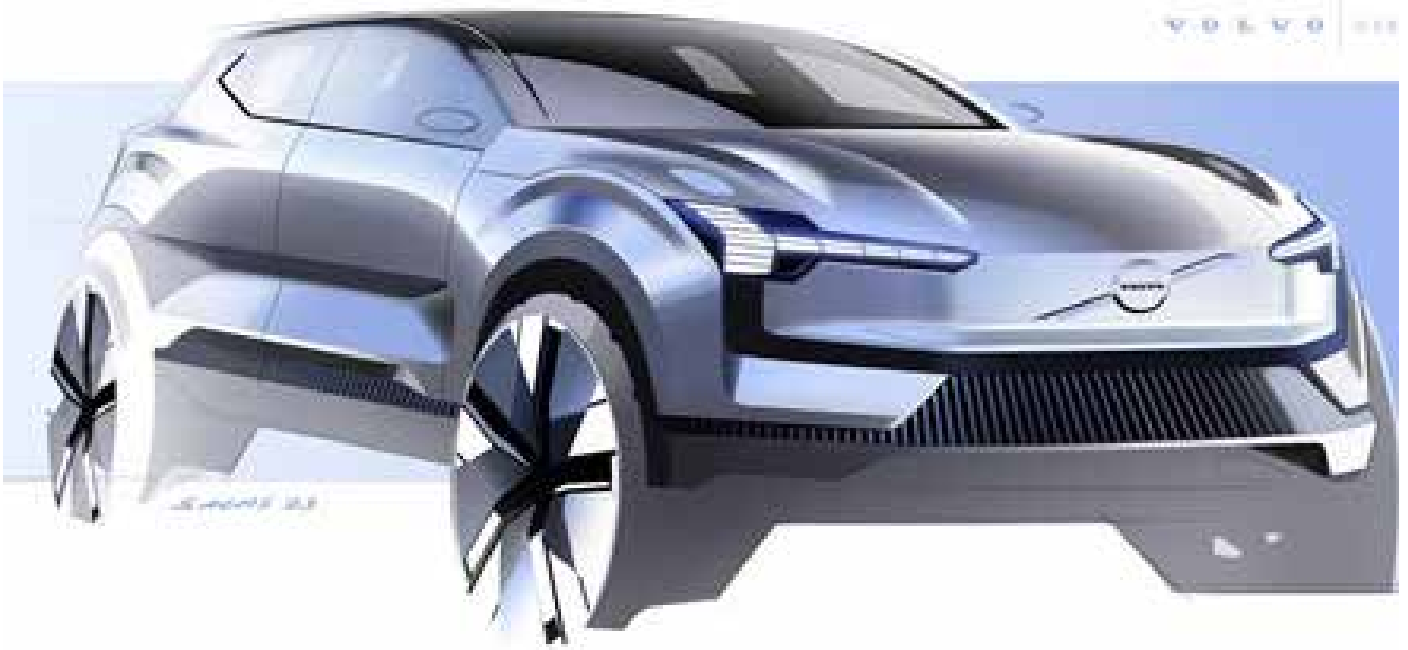
Earliest attempt by human beings to depict their natural world symbolically



Uttar Pradesh
Amazing Heritage Grand Experiences

Directorate of Tourism, UP
PARYATAN BHAWAN

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Introducing Volvo EX30, the Electrified SUV that Proves Great Things Come in Small Sizes

Volvo is proud to launch the EX30, its latest addition to the lineup of fully electric vehicles. Despite its small size, the EX30 packs a punch, delivering the exceptional qualities expected from a Volvo in a compact package. This electric SUV represents a significant milestone for both Volvo's customers and the company itself. With its emphasis on safety, cutting-edge technology, and Scandinavian design, the EX30 is set to make a big impact in the market.

Jim Rowan, the chief executive of Volvo, expressed that the fully electric EX30, their smallest SUV, holds significant importance for both their customers and the company. He described the EX30 as "small yet mighty," as it encompasses all the qualities expected from a Volvo in a compact package. The vehicle prioritizes safety and user-centric design, following Volvo's core values.

Volvo unveiled the EX30 in Milan, Italy, and it is now available for ordering in selected markets. This introduction

expands Volvo's electric lineup to four models, catering to the growing demand for electric cars in an evolving market.

The EX30's pricing is attractive, starting at approximately EUR 36,000, making it comparable in price to internal combustion engine-powered equivalents. Customers can also opt for the Care by Volvo subscription package, providing a hassle-free ordering process with transparent pricing.

Despite its smaller size, the EX30 embodies Volvo's design values. Its exterior exhibits balance and refinement

through a long wheelbase, large wheels, and equal overhangs. Notably electric, the EX30 features distinctive design elements such as a confident front face, a closed shield, and digital Thor's Hammer headlights. The vehicle offers five vibrant exterior colors, adding character and personality.

Volvo offers multiple powertrain and battery options for the EX30, allowing customers to choose the one that suits their needs. The battery technology includes three powertrain options and two battery types. For city driving



Volvo has fine-tuned the chassis of the EX30 to optimize its compact dimensions, resulting in a low center of gravity, evenly distributed weight, and nimble handling, particularly suitable for urban driving.

or shorter distances, Volvo provides a single-motor option with an LFP battery, offering cost-effectiveness and a smaller carbon footprint. Those seeking maximum range can opt for the Single Motor Extended Range variant with an NMC extended-range battery. Additionally, the Twin Motor Performance variant offers enhanced performance with an NMC battery and an additional e-motor, making it Volvo's fastest-accelerating car to date.

Charging the EX30 is fast and convenient, with the extended-range Twin Motor variant having a charging capacity of up to 153kW. The standard-range variant offers a capacity of 134kW, enabling a 10 to 80 percent charge in just over 25 minutes. The car's center display and app allow users to customize charging settings.

In terms of sustainability, the EX30 strives to have the lowest carbon footprint of any Volvo car to date. Volvo has reduced the vehicle's total carbon footprint below 30 tonnes over a distance of 200,000 kilometers through emissions reduction efforts during production, lifecycle considerations, and the use of eco-friendly materials. Safety remains a top priority, with features like a special safety alert for bikes to prevent accidents when opening doors in front of cyclists, and state-of-the-art restraint technology ensuring protection in various scenarios.

The EX30 aims to enhance convenience, relaxation, and enjoyment inside the vehicle through cutting-edge technology and Scandinavian interior design. It offers four distinct interior rooms and smart storage options

throughout the cabin. The car includes a contextual single-screen user experience with Google integration and Volvo's latest infotainment system, resulting from collaborations with tech partners like Google, Apple, Qualcomm, and ECARX.

Digital key functionality allows for easy sharing of the car, and the dedicated app provides access to various services, including charging, locating the vehicle in crowded parking lots, locking, and preheating. Over-the-air software updates ensure continuous improvement.

The EX30 offers a choice of five ambient lighting themes, each inspired by different Scandinavian landscapes, creating a calm atmosphere within the interior. Customers can also pair each lighting theme with an ambient soundscape for a more immersive experience.

Excitingly, Volvo plans to release a Cross Country variant of the EX30 in the following year. This version will embody Volvo's Cross Country heritage, featuring bespoke features such as increased ground clearance, 19-inch black wheels, and optional 18-inch wheels with specialized tires. Design elements include skidplates, black panels, and distinctive Cross Country branding, including a small Swedish flag mounted on the hood. ■

Antarraashtriya Yog Di-was (IDY-23):

India's Ocean Ring of Yoga Unites the World in Harmony and Health, Breaking World Records



In a remarkable display of unity and enthusiasm, India celebrated the 9th International Day of Yoga (IDY-23) on June 21, 2023. The theme for this year's events, 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' and 'Yoga from Arctic to Antarctica,' showcased the transformative power of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being across the globe. From the Western Naval Command to the Department of Land Resources, from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), various organizations joined hands to commemorate this significant day.

The Western Naval Command (WNC) led the way by organizing yoga camps at multiple locations, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, and Karnataka. Over 7,000 naval personnel and defense civilians, along with their families, actively participated in these camps. Remarkably, even naval ships and submarines on the high seas and in foreign ports embraced the spirit of yoga, emphasizing its benefits amidst the vast oceans.

Adding to the grandeur of the occasion, 'The Yoga Institute,' one of the world's oldest organized yoga centers, conducted yoga sessions on board INS Visakhapatnam and INS Mormugao. Vice Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command, graced

the event as the Chief Guest. Special yoga sessions were conducted for naval personnel and their families, nurturing the essence of yoga among the younger generation.

In the run-up to the International Day of Yoga, prominent yoga institutes such as 'Kaivalyadhama' and 'Heartfulness' conducted workshops for naval personnel and their families. These sessions aimed to deepen their understanding of yoga and its numerous benefits. Additionally, certified yoga instructors from organizations like Patanjali Samiti, Art of Living, and Bharat Swabhimani (NYAS) conducted mass yoga camps, fostering awareness and participation among naval personnel and the wider community.

The Department of Land Resources

(DOLR), and Ministry of Rural Development, also embraced the International Day of Yoga at its Health Rejuvenation Centre in New Delhi. Secretary Ajay Tirkey inaugurated the program, which included a comprehensive yoga session conducted by an instructor from the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga. Officers from DOLR actively participated in the session, adhering to the common yoga protocols established by the Ministry of Ayush.

Meanwhile, the NCC displayed remarkable zeal and unity as 11 lakh cadets across the country participated in yoga sessions organized at various venues. These sessions, held in parks, open grounds, schools, and colleges, aimed to educate the cadets about the essence of yogic exercises and



promote unity and mindfulness within society. DGNCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, AVSM VSM, presided over an enthusiastic assembly of cadets from all three services, emphasizing the theme of "Har Aangan Yoga" and "Yoga for Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam."

The Eastern Naval Command (ENC) continued the celebration by organizing yoga sessions at its stations, units, and onboard ships. Over 13,000 naval personnel, Defense Security Corps, defense civilians, and their families actively participated in the event across the Eastern Seaboard. ENC ships visiting foreign ports also conducted yoga sessions, spreading awareness about yoga and its benefits among local communities.

In New Delhi, the grand event of International Day of Yoga 2023 was held at Krishi Bhawan, where the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying actively participated. Subordinate offices and autonomous bodies of the department also celebrated the day. The theme, 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' resonated with the participants, fostering a sense of unity and well-being.

The main national event took place

in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, where the Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, led a mass yoga demonstration with the participation of more than 15,000 people practicing the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP).

Several prominent dignitaries attended the event, including the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Union Minister of Ayush & Ministry of Ports Shipping & Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, and other Cabinet Ministers, MPs, and officials. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who was unable to attend the event in person due to his commitments in the United States, addressed the nation through a video message and expressed his belief in the transformative power of yoga.

During his address, Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar highlighted the global significance of yoga and its

positive impact on the economy. He emphasized that yoga is not only for individuals but for the betterment of all humanity. The demand for yoga teachers is increasing worldwide, and trained yoga instructors from India are working diligently to promote yoga and its benefits.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi underscored the importance of good health at the individual and family levels and how practicing yoga contributes to creating a healthy and powerful society. He mentioned that campaigns like Swachh Bharat and Startup India, along with the collective energy generated through yoga, have played significant roles in building a self-reliant nation and restoring India's cultural identity.

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal expressed his confidence that International Day of Yoga 2023, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will further promote the ethos of yoga and Indian traditions at both national and international levels, amplifying the message of universal well-being.

Governor of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mangubhai Patel stressed the relevance of yoga for the younger generation, enabling them to face future challenges with resilience. Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan made an important announcement that his government will introduce yoga in the school curriculum and implement it in all schools across Madhya Pradesh.

Another remarkable aspect of this year's IDY was the inclusion of Yoga from the Arctic to Antarctica, with yoga demonstrations taking place in countries along the Prime Meridian line, as well as on the North Pole and South Pole regions. Indian research bases in the Arctic (Himadri) and Antarctica (Bharati) also actively participated. The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, along with organizations





like ITBP, BSF, and BRO, formed a chain of yoga demonstrations called Yoga Bharatmala. Yoga demonstrations were also organized along the Indian coastline and islands, known as Yoga Sagarmala.

To engage rural communities, the Ministry of Ayush planned extensive yoga demonstrations under the theme "Har Aangan Yoga." Panchayats, Anganwadi centers, Health and Wellness Centers, schools, common service centers, Ayush Gram Units, and locations around Amrit Sarovar were involved in spreading the message of yoga. The International Day of Yoga saw active participation from various ministries of the Government of India, leading yoga institutes, organizations, Indian missions and embassies, UN member states, and the interim office of WHO-GCTM in Jamnagar.

From naval commands to government departments, the International Day of Yoga brought together people from all walks of life, transcending boundaries and promoting a healthier and harmonious world. The resounding success of these celebrations serves as a testament to the transformative power of yoga in fostering physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. As India continues its

journey towards a brighter future, the practice of yoga stands as a symbol of unity, peace, and universal well-being.

The highlight of this year's International Day of Yoga was the unique concept of the Ocean Ring of Yoga, where Indian naval ships stationed at various ports worldwide, as well as countries with maritime cooperation and merchant shipping agreements with India, participated in coordinated yoga demonstrations. Over 3,500 naval personnel onboard 19 Indian naval ships traveled more than 35,000 kilometers, spreading the message of yoga as ambassadors of Yoga. Foreign navy personnel and ships also joined in the celebrations, further enhancing global participation.

Surat, a city in Gujarat, India, made history on International Yoga Day by breaking the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people participating in a yoga session at a single location. An estimated 1.25 lakh individuals joined the yoga session, showcasing the city's commitment to promoting health and well-being through yoga. This remarkable achievement reflects the growing enthusiasm and support for yoga in communities across India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

Yoga Day event at the United Nations headquarters in New York also created a Guinness World Record. The session witnessed the participation of representatives from at least 135 countries, surpassing the previous record for the most nationalities in a Yoga session. This remarkable achievement demonstrates the global recognition and embrace of yoga as a unifying practice for people of different nations and cultures.

The Yoga Day of 2023 witnessed increased mass participation, reaffirming global recognition and the impact of yoga. As India continues to strive for a brighter future, yoga stands as a symbol of unity, peace, and universal well-being, contributing to a healthier world for all.

The Antarraashtriya Yog Diwas (IDY-23) showcased India's commitment to promoting the practice of yoga for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. The Ocean Ring of Yoga brought together naval personnel from various countries, fostering global participation and unity. With world records broken and millions of participants engaged, this year's celebration of yoga truly exemplified its transformative power and its role in building a healthier and harmonious world. ■



Amigos Alliance

FROM STRESSED TO STRESS FREE



TRAVEL AGENCY

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TRAVEL AGENCY

Palladium Hotel Group, renowned for its premium lifestyle brands, is set to manage the highly anticipated 45 Times Square Hotel in New York. The hotel, owned by Ferrado Hotels and opening its doors in June 2023, presents a captivating blend of design, style, and an authentic local experience. This exciting addition to Palladium Hotel Group's portfolio signifies their entry into the vibrant New York hospitality scene.



Palladium Hotel Group Takes Charge of the New 45 Times Square Hotel in New York

Nestled just steps away from the iconic Times Square, in the heart of Manhattan, lies the exquisite 45 Times Square Hotel. Owned by Ferrado Hotels, a part of the Rosp Corunna group and the family office of Sandra Ortega, this remarkable property will be managed by the esteemed Palladium Hotel Group from its grand opening in June 2023. Operating under the ephemeral brand "45 Times Square Hotel," Palladium Hotel Group will later convert it into Only YOU Hotels, their premium lifestyle brand, further solidifying their presence in urban destinations.

Boasting 139 rooms, the 45 Times Square Hotel captures the essence of New York's distinctive aesthetics and vibrant lifestyle. Its prime location offers guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in the enchanting world of towering skyscrapers. The hotel promises an unforgettable experience with its motto, "Enjoying every NYC minute," catering to the most inquisitive and adventurous travelers.

Jesús Sobrino, CEO of Palladium



Hotel Group, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "This new opening is a significant milestone for Palladium Hotel Group, as it marks our entry into the United States. New York is a highly coveted destination for global travelers, and we believe Only YOU Hotels will perfectly complement the city's innovative and urban style."

Juan Serra, General Director of Only YOU Hotels, emphasized the strategic importance of having a presence in one of the world's most influential cities for entertainment, fashion, and culture. He shared, "At Palladium Hotel Group, we are committed to transforming the asset to align with the brand's distinctive character, seamlessly blending with the city's vibrant atmosphere and welcoming those who seek to embrace



its unique experiences."

During this transition phase, the company aims to make "45" a symbol for urban adventurers—the individuals who embrace the destination, immersing themselves in its museums and relishing the culinary delights recommended by locals. Travelers choosing to stay at 45 Times Square seek a rejuvenating sanctuary to recharge before continuing their exploration of the city, transforming 45 into the ultimate destination for the intrepid Seeker.

As New York is famously known as the city that never sleeps, 45 Times Square Hotel offers a haven where guests can rest and dream about their unforgettable experiences in the mesmerizing NYC. ■

Avani Hotels & Resorts Debuts in Spain and Italy

Introducing Avani Alonso Martínez in Madrid and Avani Palazzo Moscova in Milan. Avani Hotels & Resorts, the upscale lifestyle brand of Minor Hotels, announces its debut in Spain and Italy with the opening of Avani Alonso Martínez and Avani Palazzo Moscova. Situated in the vibrant cities of Madrid and Milan respectively, these remarkable properties embody Avani's modern and functional approach. Featuring meticulously designed spaces that are smart, flexible, and social, Avani's entrance into these cosmopolitan destinations marks an exciting new chapter for the brand. Avani Alonso Martínez and Avani Palazzo Moscova have been designed for millennial-minded travelers, offering a host of hand-picked experiences that immerse guests in the local culture. Crafted with a forward-thinking approach and catering to the preferences of digital nomads and leisure travelers, these properties provide state-of-the-art AvaniFit gyms for wellness enthusiasts to maintain their fitness routines, along with convenient grab-and-go dining options that cater to dynamic lifestyles.

Introducing the First Avani Hotel in Spain: Avani Alonso Martínez

Situated just steps away from the iconic central square that shares its name, this architectural gem dates back to 1919, featuring a captivating century-old façade

adorned with wrought-iron balconies. Following a renovation, this upscale hotel seamlessly combines its historic elegance with a fresh and contemporary design.

Every detail of Avani Alonso Martínez's interior draws inspiration from the vibrant city of Madrid. As guests enter, they are greeted by a magnificent sculpture of a yellow cat, an emblematic animal associated with the locals. The walls of the colorful lobby are enhanced with signs displaying typical Madrileño expressions, immersing visitors in the city's unique culture. The stairwell pays homage to the region's traditional dress with a series of elaborate Manila shawls hand-painted on the walls, adding a touch of artistry and charm. As part of the refurbishment, the hotel has expanded the breakfast area to provide guests with an enhanced dining experience. Additionally, guests can enjoy the convenience of The Pantry, offering a flexible solution with a selection of coffee, pastries, salads, and sandwiches. Avani Alonso Martínez Madrid offers 101 rooms that integrate modern technology with unrivaled comfort. Reflecting the essence of the Spanish capital, the décor showcases distinctive elements honoring the city's heritage. The bedcovers feature a stylish houndstooth pattern, reminiscent of the iconic print worn by traditional Madrileños known as *cheapos*. Headboards feature

Avani Hotels & Resorts, the upscale lifestyle brand of Minor Hotels, is proud to announce its exciting entry into Spain and Italy with the opening of Avani Alonso Martínez and Avani Palazzo Moscova. These remarkable properties, situated in the vibrant cities of Madrid and Milan respectively, embody Avani's modern and functional approach to hospitality. With meticulously designed spaces that are smart, flexible, and social, these new additions to the Avani portfolio mark an exciting chapter for the brand.

captivating cat designs, while vintage-style paintings depict local festivities like San Isidro. Lampshades elegantly display vintage maps of the city center, immersing guests in the rich tapestry of Madrid's history and culture. Guests can unlock the destination with an innovative series of experiences, from thrilling Segway adventures to lesser-known spots that take in some of the city's most notable murals and graffiti displays, to picturesque picnics on the sprawling lawns of Retiro Park. In addition, guests can unleash their inner artist at Wine Gogh, a glow-in-the-dark painting workshop that entices both locals and tourists to come together to craft their masterpieces with neon paint. All the while, they can sip local wines and surrender to the rhythm of an eclectic soundtrack, igniting their artistic inspiration. For foodies, private dinners held in hidden galleries and studios offer a chance to taste authentic Spanish dishes in an artistic ambiance. A neoclassical building for Avani in Milan: Avani Palazzo Moscova ■

The Grandeur of Jagannath Rath Yatra 2023

Jagannath Rath Yatra, an age-old tradition celebrating the divine journey of Lord Jagannath, unfolds with majestic splendor and devotion across various parts of India.

In the year 2023, this grand festival showcased a harmonious blend of tradition, innovation, and unwavering faith. From the vibrant processions in Kolkata and Odisha to the environmentally-conscious "Robo Rath Yatra" in Vadodara, the celebrations enthralled millions, leaving an indelible mark of spirituality and reverence.

The Kolkata Experience:

The Rath Yatra in Kolkata witnessed the participation of Mamata Banerjee, the esteemed Chief Minister of West Bengal. Imbued with devotion, she took an active role in the festivities, performing the sacred ritual of 'Pahind Vidhi,' symbolizing the sweeping of the path for Lord Jagannath's chariot. Governor Ganeshi Lal and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, along with fervent devotees, ceremonially initiated the mammoth car-pulling exercise by tugging on the ropes connected to the principal Jagannath Jagannath chariot.

The 'Robo Rath Yatra' in Vadodara:

In Vadodara, a unique twist to the traditional Rath Yatra was introduced by Jai Makwana. For the past nine years, he has commemorated the occasion with

an environmentally-conscious approach, paying homage to Lord Jagannath through a robotic chariot powered by solar energy. Unlike the traditional chariot-pulling processions in Puri and Ahmedabad, Jai Makwana's innovative initiative features a motorized chariot adorned with an idol of Lord Jagannath. This creative tribute not only showcases his deep reverence for the divine but also highlights the importance of sustainability, captivating the hearts of onlookers and inspiring them to embrace eco-friendly practices.

The Serpentine Path of Devotion:

The Rath Yatra is more than a mere spectacle; it is an expression of devotion and spiritual connection. As the magnificent chariots carrying the deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra traverse the streets,

priests rhythmically beat brass cymbals and hand drums, creating a captivating symphony of devotion. Thousands of devotees line the procession route, their hearts filled with reverence and their voices echoing chants of praise. The serpentine path of the procession becomes a sacred conduit, uniting people from all walks of life in their shared devotion to Lord Jagannath.

Traditional Significance and Rituals:

According to the Skanda Purana, Ratha Yatra is considered the most famous among the twelve Yatras of Shree Jagannatha. The festival holds immense significance, promising eternal blessings to those who witness the four deities on the sacred seat of the Gundicha Temple for a week. Even those who hear about the festival or study its rituals are believed to be bestowed with divine





grace. On the auspicious day of Rath Yatra, Lord Jagannath, the supreme Lord of the cosmos, joyfully begins a journey to the Gundicha Temple, fulfilling His divine command. The touch of the chariot, symbolizing "Sandhini Sakti," confers the compassion of Lord Jagannath upon devotees, fulfilling the ancient prophecy, "Ratha tu Vamanam drustva purnarjanma na vidyate."

Celebrations in Puri and Ahmedabad:

The city of Puri, in the eastern state of Odisha, becomes the epicenter of grandeur during the Rath Yatra. The devotees throng the streets, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Lord Jagannath's chariot. The air reverberates with the resounding beats of drums and the chanting of hymns as the magnificent chariots, adorned with colorful decorations, are pulled through the crowded thoroughfares. The fervent devotees consider it a moment of great fortune to have the opportunity to touch the chariot, believing it to be an auspicious blessing.

Similarly, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, the divine gathering of faith and devotion takes place. Shri Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, actively participated in the Mangala Aarti, seeking blessings from Mahaprabhu at the Jagannath Temple. The vibrant city comes alive

as devotees join the chariot-pulling exercise, embracing the joyous spirit of the festival.

The Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train:

Adding to the splendor of Jagannath Rath Yatra 2023, the Bharat Gaurav AC Tourist Train embarks on an eight-day special tour. The train, flagged off by Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan, Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Sh. G Kishan Reddy, departs from Delhi, carrying 528 tourists across various sacred destinations. The tour itinerary includes visits to the Jagannath Temple in Puri, along with Konark, Bhubneshwar, Kashi, Baidyanath, and Gaya. Equipped with a well-equipped pantry car, an infotainment system, and CCTV cameras, the train offers a comfortable and enriching experience for the devotees embarking on this spiritual journey.

Tradition, Innovation, and Devotion:

Jagannath Rath Yatra 2023 epitomized the rich tapestry woven by tradition, innovation, and unwavering devotion. From the traditional processions in Kolkata and Puri to the technologically advanced "Robo Rath Yatra" in Vadodara, devotees celebrated Lord Jagannath with heartfelt reverence and creative expressions.

Each individual, in their own unique way, paid homage to the divine, seeking blessings and spiritual solace.

The grandeur of Jagannath Rath Yatra 2023 resonates in the hearts of devotees across the nation. From Kolkata to Vadodara, Puri to Ahmedabad, and the Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train, the festival unites people in a shared reverence for Lord Jagannath. The ancient traditions, rituals, and sacred processions intertwine with modern innovations, reflecting the timeless spirit of devotion and the evolving cultural landscape. As the chariots glide through the streets, carrying the divine presence of Lord Jagannath, the atmosphere vibrates with collective prayers, offering a glimpse of the eternal bond between the Creator and the created. Jagannath Rath Yatra stands as a testament to the unbreakable bond between tradition and innovation, reminding us of the power of faith and the beauty of unity in diversity.



In Talks with Mr. Kushal Pal Singh, Fitness and Performance Expert

Q- How can a proper diet contribute to overall health and well-being before a wedding?

A proper diet plays a crucial role in enhancing overall health and well-being before a wedding. It provides the necessary nutrients to support the body's functions, boosts energy levels, and helps maintain a healthy weight. A well-balanced diet can also improve mood, reduce stress, promote better sleep, and enhance mental clarity, all of which are important during the wedding preparation period.

Q- What are some key nutrients that should be included in a pre-wedding diet? How can these nutrients help achieve specific goals, such as glowing skin or increased energy levels?

In a pre-wedding diet, it is essential to include various key nutrients. Here are a few examples:

- Protein: Helps in tissue repair and supports hair and nail health.
- Healthy fats: Nourish the skin, improve its texture, and promote a healthy glow.
- Antioxidants (found in fruits and vegetables): Protect the skin from damage and contribute to a radiant complexion.
- Biotin and zinc: Support healthy hair growth and maintain strong nails.
- Iron and vitamin C: Aid in maintaining energy levels and preventing fatigue.

By incorporating these nutrients, you can achieve specific goals such as glowing skin by promoting collagen production, increasing energy levels by

supporting cellular energy production, and strengthening hair and nails for a healthy appearance.

Q. Are there any specific foods that should be prioritized or avoided in the pre-wedding period?

While it's important to focus on a balanced diet overall, there are a few specific recommendations to consider. Prioritizing whole foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats is essential. These provide essential nutrients, antioxidants, and fiber that support overall health and well-being. Additionally, incorporating foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids like salmon and walnuts can help nourish the skin and improve its texture. On the other hand, it's advisable to avoid or minimize processed foods, sugary snacks, and excessive caffeine. These can contribute to inflammation, skin issues, and energy fluctuations.

Q. How can a nutritionist help in creating a personalized meal plan for the bride/groom-to-be?

A nutritionist plays a valuable role in creating a personalized meal plan tailored to the unique needs of the bride or groom-to-be. They will consider factors such as your specific goals, dietary preferences, lifestyle, and any existing health conditions. By analyzing your nutritional requirements, they can provide guidance on portion sizes, recommend suitable foods, and suggest meal timings that align with your wedding preparations. A nutritionist will ensure that your meal plan is



balanced, nutrient-dense, and provides the necessary energy and nutrients to support your overall health and specific goals. They can also address any concerns, answer your questions, and offer ongoing support throughout the pre-wedding period. Regular consultations with a nutritionist can help monitor your progress and make any necessary adjustments to optimize your nutrition plan.

Q. Are there any specific dietary recommendations to support healthy hair and skin before the wedding?

To support healthy hair and skin before the wedding, consider the following dietary recommendations:

- Consume foods rich in vitamins A, C, E, and biotin (e.g., carrots, citrus fruits, almonds, eggs) to promote skin health.
- Incorporate foods containing omega-3 fatty acids (e.g., fatty fish, chia seeds) for healthy hair and scalp.
- Include foods high in antioxidants (e.g., berries, leafy greens) to protect the skin from damage.
- Stay hydrated by drinking an adequate amount of water throughout the day.

Remember, these recommendations should be accompanied by a well-balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle to achieve optimal results.



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