Politics Democracy

Volume X • Issue VII August 2024 Pages 52 • Rs. 40/-

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UNION BUDGET 2024-25

STRATEGIC SHIFTS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES



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INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND



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Politics & Democracy

Volume X, Issue VII | August 2024 | Pages 52 | Rs. 40

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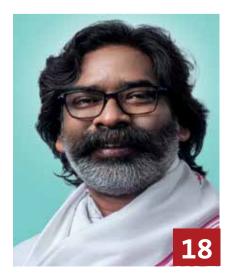
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Union Budget 2024-25 Strategic Shifts and Future Opportunities

Despite ongoing global economic uncertainties, India's growth continues to stand out as a notable exception and is expected to remain strong in the coming years. During the presentation of the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted that India's inflation remains low, stable, and on track towards the 4 per cent target. Core inflation, excluding food and fuel, is currently at 3.1 per cent, and measures are being taken...

Empowering Jharkhand : The Visionary Leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren

Nestled in India's mineral-rich heartland, Jharkhand is a state of immense natural beauty and potential. At its helm, Chief Minister Hemant Soren is emerging as a transformative leader whose policies and initiatives are redefining governance and setting new benchmarks for socio-economic development. Under his stewardship...







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26th July, plays a crucial role in the history of India. It is a day to honor the indomitable spirit of the soldiers who fought for our country. Their legacy of bravery and sacrifice remains etched in the annals of history and in the hearts of every Indian. On this day, we remember their heroism, celebrate their valor, and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the ideals they held...

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The Textile Industry in India: A Journey of Progress and Transformation

The Indian textile industry has come a long way from its humble beginnings to become a global powerhouse. Its journey of progress is marked by resilience, adaptability, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. As the industry navigates the challenges and capitalizes...



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Defining a new era in SUV design, Tata Motors, India's leading automotive manufacturer, unveiled the Tata Curvv ICE and EV. Born of powerful philosophy...

NEWS VIEWS

India is the world's second-largest producer of Aluminium



In Q1 of FY 2024-25, the production of key minerals in India, such as iron ore and limestone, continues to exhibit strong growth following record levels achieved in FY 2023-24. Iron ore and limestone together

make up about 80% of the total MCDR mineral production by value, with production figures reaching 275 million metric tons (MMT) for iron ore and 450 MMT for limestone in FY 2023-24.

Provisional data shows a 1.2% increase in primary aluminium production in the non-ferrous metal sector for FY 2024-25 (April-June), rising to 10.43 lakh tons (LT) from 10.28 LT in the same period last year.

India ranks as the world's second-largest aluminium producer, thirdlargest lime producer, and fourth-largest iron ore producer. The ongoing growth in iron ore and limestone production highlights strong demand in the steel and cement industries. Alongside the rise in aluminium production, these trends indicate robust economic activity in sectors like energy, infrastructure, construction, automotive, and machinery.

Iron ore production increased from 72 MMT in Q1 FY 2023-24 to 79 MMT in Q1 FY 2024-25, reflecting a 9.7% growth. Limestone production grew by 1.8%, from 114 MMT to 116 MMT over the same period. Additionally, manganese ore production surged by 11%, reaching 1.0 MMT in Q1 FY 2024-25 compared to 0.9 MMT in the previous year.

All-India Institute of Ayurveda Successfully Hosts 'Saushrutam 2024' Featuring Live Surgical Demonstrations

The Department of Shalya Tantra at All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi successfully organized the Second National Seminar



'Saushrutam 2024' from July 13-15, in celebration of Sushruta Jayanti. The seminar, honoring the father of surgery, featured live demonstrations of 25 complex surgical procedures, including treatments for fistula, hemorrhoids, and gallbladder stones using advanced techniques like VAAFT, laparoscopy, and laser, as well as traditional methods. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Sandeep Kumar and attended by other distinguished guests. The seminar concluded with a Sushruta Poojan ceremony, paper presentations, and a valedictory ceremony. Over 160 participants, including scholars, doctors, and experts from across India and Nepal, attended the event.

The Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) awarded the 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman' for 2023-24 to PSUs located in Visakhapatnam



The Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) (PSU), Visakhapatnam, held its meeting today at NTPC. Sri Atul Bhatt, Chairman of TOLIC and CMD of RINL, presented the 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman' for 2023-24 to Visakhapatnam PSUs for their excellence in Official Language implementation and the 'Nagar Rajbhasha Samman' to Hindi Officers and Coordinators.

Awards were given in three categories:

Category I: HPCL-Visakha Refinery (1st), NTPC Simhadri (2nd), Airport Authority of India (3rd)

Category II: GAIL, HPCL-Visakha Regional Office, SAIL Branch Transport & Shipping Office, FCI-Regional Office

Category III: MSTC (1st), HPCL LPG (2nd), ECGC (3rd)

Sri Atul Bhatt congratulated TOLIC for the Regional Official Language Award for 2022-23 and praised local PSUs. Sri Anirban Kumar Biswas from the Ministry of Home Affairs reviewed progress and discussed new guidelines. Dr. Rita Trivedi highlighted local Hindi training facilities.

The meeting also featured the release of the 8th issue of 'Visakha Dhara,' the TOLIC Hindi Magazine, by key attendees including Sri Sanjay Kumar Sinha, Dr. Lalan Kumar, and Dr. T Hymavathi. The vote of thanks was proposed by Smt. V Suguna.

"DAY-NRLM, USAID, and Industree Foundation Host National Bamboo Symposium to Advance Rural Livelihoods and Environmental Conservation"

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), in collaboration with USAID and Industree Foundation, held a 'National Symposium on Bamboo' to boost sustainable rural livelihoods, women's empowerment, and climate resilience through bamboo farming.

The event featured the launch of India's first comprehensive handbook on bamboo cultivation, available in seven regional languages, aimed at equipping smallholder women farmers. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development, Shri Charanjit Singh, and Acting Mission Director of USAID, Alexandria Huerta, also introduced the UGAO app, which provides real-time data support and helps build a traceable supply chain for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.



Shri Charanjit Singh highlighted bamboo cultivation's potential to improve livelihoods and contribute to environmental conservation. Alexandria Huerta emphasized USAID's commitment to addressing gender inequalities and supporting local development. Joint Secretary Ms. Swati Sharma noted that the program aligns with promoting sustainable livelihoods and inclusive growth.

Industree Foundation's Neelam Chhiber spoke about the transformative potential of

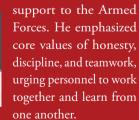
bamboo cultivation for rural economies and women's lives, supporting 5,500 farmers with sustainable income over decades. The symposium showcased bamboo as a sustainable industry alternative and aims to enhance livelihoods and support environmental conservation. DAY-NRLM's goal is to empower 1 million rural women as 'Lakhpati Didis' (earning over INR 100,000 annually) through bamboo farming. The partnership with Industree Foundation builds on the success of USAID's POWER project, which has organized over 10,000 women into enterprises and collectives, fulfilling market orders worth over \$3 million. This successful model will be expanded nationwide with State Rural Livelihoods Missions.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh attended the 83rd AFHQ Civilian Services Day celebrations in New Delhi

On August 1, 2024, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the 83rd AFHQ Civilian Services Day in New Delhi, urging personnel to enhance their skills to

better support policy-making and reforms in the Ministry of Defence (MoD). He praised the AFHQ personnel as the "steel frame" of governance, crucial for linking the Armed Forces with the civilian government, and called for improved efficiency through enhanced capabilities and collaboration.

Shri Rajnath Singh also recommended exploring better career progression opportunities to attract top talent and improve



The event was attended by senior officials, including Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth and Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. AFHQ Day, celebrated annually, recognizes the vital role of AFHQ personnel who serve as a key link between Service Headquarters and MoD. The AFHQ cadre was established on August 1, 1942, to streamline civilian posts under Service Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence.

Coal Ministry Secures Agreements for Three New Coal Mines

The Ministry of Coal has successfully signed Coal Mining Development and Production Agreements for three coal mines under the Second Attempt of the 7th Round auction. This milestone marks a significant advance in commercial coal mining. The agreements cover the Machhakata (Revised), Kudanali Lubri, and Sakhigopal-B Kakurhi coal mines, with NLC India Limited, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited, and Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited as the successful bidders, respectively. These mines are expected to generate an annual revenue of approximately Rs. 2,991.20 crores from commercial auctions, with a combined Peak Rate Capacity of around 30.00 MTPA. They are projected to create about 40,560 direct and indirect jobs and will require a total investment of around Rs. 4,500 crores to become operational. This initiative represents a major step toward achieving self-reliance in the coal sector, driving economic growth, creating employment, and enhancing the nation's energy security.

NEWS VIEWS



Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates 'Lok Samvardhan Parv' at Delhi Haat in New Delhi.

As part of its 100-day program, the Ministry of Minority Affairs hosted "Lok Samvardhan Parv," inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju. The event showcased the Ministry's schemes, achievements, and collaborative efforts with partner organizations. It featured a coffee table book on the Ministry's work, a credit plan for over Rs.1000 crores by NMDFC, and MOUs with banks and state skill development missions. The exhibition included displays of minority schemes, artisan crafts, and success stories. Knowledge partners like NIFT and NID, as well as marketing organizations like GeM and ONDC, participated. Cultural performances and craft demonstrations were held to engage youth and children. Over 70 handicraft and handloom products from 162 artisans were showcased, highlighting the Ministry's commitment to inclusive development.

Union Minister Shri Murlidhar Mohol to Attend VAMNICOM's 30th PGDM-ABM Convocation in Pune

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Ministry of Cooperation has greatly supported student placements in the cooperative sector. VAMNICOM has achieved 100% placements for its PGDM-ABM students, with an average salary package of ₹9.12 lakh per annum.

Union Minister of State for Cooperation and Civil Aviation, Shri Murlidhar Mohol, will be the Chief Guest at the Annual Convocation for the 30th Batch of PGDM-ABM at VAMNICOM in Pune. Over 90 students from diverse agricultural disciplines will receive their diplomas, including more



than 30 girls. VAMNICOM's PGDM-ABM program, accredited by the National Board of Accreditation and recognized as equivalent to an MBA, is instrumental in developing skilled professionals for the cooperative sector, aligning with the Ministry's vision of "Sahakar Se Samriddhi."



"National Brain Research Centre Marks World Brain Day with Neuroscience Outreach Initiatives"

The National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) celebrated World Brain Day on July 22 by hosting an event for over 100 students and 15 teachers from Gurugram schools. The event aimed to spark interest in neuroscience and provide direct interaction with leading scientists and researchers.

World Brain Day, established by the World Federation of Neurology, focuses on raising awareness about brain health and promoting neurological research. It encourages young people to explore the complexities of the human brain and contribute to advancements in the field.

At NBRC, the day featured interactive sessions, including tours of advanced

neuroscience labs. Students observed real human brains, 3D neural stem cell cultures, and cutting-edge diagnostic tools like MRI and EEG. NBRC researchers engaged with attendees, explaining ongoing research through student-friendly posters. The event also included a talk by Dr. Tapan Gandhi from IIT Delhi on AI-enhanced brain-computer interfaces.

Dr. Arpan Banerjee, a scientist at NBRC, highlighted the importance of World Brain Day in promoting brain health and inspiring future neuroscientists. He urged students to consider careers in neuroscience to advance understanding and treatment of brain disorders.

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COVER STORY

Union Budget 2024-25 STRATEGIC SHIFTS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIESW



Despite ongoing global economic uncertainties, India's growth continues to stand out as a notable exception and is expected to remain strong in the coming years. During the presentation of the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted that India's inflation remains low, stable, and on track towards the 4 per cent target. Core inflation, excluding food and fuel, is currently at 3.1 per cent, and measures are being taken to ensure sufficient supply of perishable goods in the market.

HIGHLIGHTS:-

- India's inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4 per cent target.
- PM's package of 5 schemes and initiatives with an outlay of ₹ 2 lakh crore to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth in 5 years.
- For pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat', the budget envisages sustained efforts on 9 priorities for generating ample opportunities for all.
- Budget 2024-25 focuses on employment, skilling, MSME's and middle class.
- New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops will be released for cultivation by farmers.
- In the next two years, 1 crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming.
- A provision of ₹ 1.52 lakh

crore for agriculture and allied sector announced for this year.

- 1,000 industrial training institutes will be upgraded.
- Government will formulate a plan, Purvodaya, for the all-round development of the eastern region covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh
- For promoting women-led development, the budget carries an allocation of more than ₹ 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.
- A provision of ₹ 2.66 lakh crore for rural development including rural infrastructure made this year.
- The limit of mudra loans will be enhanced to ₹ 20 lakh from the current ₹ 10 lakh.
- Government to launch a comprehensive scheme for providing internship opportunities in 500 top

companies to 1 crore youth in 5 years.

- Under PM Awas Yojana urban 2.0, housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families will be addressed with an investment of ₹ 10 lakh crore.
- Phase IV of PMGSY will be launched to provide allweather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.
- •Emphasis on expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years with a venture capital fund of ₹ 1,000 crore.
- •Major relief to 4 crore salaried individuals and pensioners in income tax.
- ●Standard deduction increased from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 75,000 for those in new tax regime.
- •Deduction on family pension increased from ₹ 15,000 to ₹ 25,000.
- •Over 58 per cent corporate

tax receipts collected under the new regime.

•Two thirds of individual income tax payers switched over to new income tax regime.

•Angel tax abolished for all class of investors to boost start-ups and investments.

s outlined in the interim budget, the focus remains on four key groups: 'Garib' (poor), Mahilayen' (women), 'Yuva' (youth), and 'Annadata' (farmers). Looking ahead, Smt. Sitharaman emphasized that this budget is centered on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle class. She introduced the Prime Minister's package of five schemes and initiatives aimed at providing employment, skilling, and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over the next five years, with a central allocation of ₹2 lakh crore. This year's budget allocates ₹1.48 lakh crore specifically for education, employment, and skilling initiatives.

Budget Priorities

The Finance Minister said, for pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat', the budget envisages sustained efforts on the following 9 priorities for generating ample opportunities for all.

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

Productivity and resilience in Agriculture

The Finance Minister announced that the government will undertake a comprehensive review of the agriculture research setup to bring the focus on raising productivity. New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops will be released for cultivation by farmers.

Over the next two years, 1 crore farmers

•Corporate tax on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent to invite investments.

•5 per cent TDS on many payments merged to 2 per cent TDS.

•Capital gain exemption limit increased to ₹ 1.25 lakh

across the country will be introduced to natural farming, with support for certification and branding. To support this initiative, 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centers will be established.

To achieve selfsufficiency in pulses and

oilseeds, the government will enhance production, storage, and marketing efforts. This includes working towards 'Atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) for oilseeds such as mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower.



In collaboration with the states, the government will facilitate the implementation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture, covering farmers and their lands over the next three years. Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman also announced a provision of ₹1.52 lakh crore for the agriculture and allied sectors this year.

Employment & Skilling

The Finance Minister said that the government will implement 3 schemes for 'Employment Linked Incentive', as part of the Prime Minister's package. These will be based on enrolment in the EPFO, and focus on recognition of first-time employees, and support to employees and employers. The government will enhance women's per year to benefit lower and middle income classes.

•Custom duty on x-ray panels, mobile phones & PCBA reduced to 15 per cent.

•Precious metals including gold and silver to become cheaper, custom duty reduced to 6 per cent.



participation in the workforce by setting up working women hostels in partnership with industry and establishing creches.

Referring to the Skilling programme, the Finance Minister announced a new centrally sponsored scheme, as the 4th scheme under the Prime Minister's package, for skilling in collaboration with state governments and Industry. 20 lakh youth will be skilled over a 5-year period and 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes will be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements with outcome orientation.

She also announced that the Model Skill Loan Scheme will be revised to facilitate loans up to ₹7.5 lakh with a guarantee from a government promoted Fund, which is expected to help 25,000 students every year.

For helping the youth, who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies, she announced a financial support for loans upto ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions. E-vouchers for this purpose will be given



COVER STORY



directly to 1 lakh students every year for annual interest subvention of 3 per cent of the loan amount.

Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

Addressing the Saturation approach, the Finance Minister emphasized that the implementation of schemes supporting economic activities for craftsmen, artisans, self-help groups, and entrepreneurs from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and women, as well as street vendors, will be intensified. This includes programs like PM Vishwakarma, PM SVANidhi, National Livelihood Missions, and Stand-Up India.

Purvodaya

The government will introduce a plan called Purvodaya to drive comprehensive development in the eastern region, including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh. This plan will focus on human resource development, infrastructure, and economic opportunities, aiming to transform the region into a key contributor to Viksit Bharat.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

To improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities, the Finance Minister announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan. This initiative will adopt a saturation coverage model for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, encompassing 63,000 villages and benefiting 5 crore tribal people.

Over 100 branches of India Post Payment

Bank will be established in the North East region to broaden banking services.

She said, a provision of ₹2.66 lakh crore for rural development including rural infrastructure was made this year.

Manufacturing & Services Support for MSMEs

Finance Minister Smt Sitharaman emphasized that this budget places a strong focus on supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly those engaged in labour-intensive manufacturing. A newly established self-financing guarantee fund will offer guarantee coverage of up to ₹100 crore per applicant, even if the loan amount exceeds this limit. Additionally, public sector banks will enhance their internal capabilities to evaluate MSMEs for credit, moving away from reliance on external assessments. A new mechanism will also be introduced to ensure the continuation of bank credit for MSMEs facing financial stress.

Mudra Loans

The Mudra loan limit will be increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh for entrepreneurs



who have successfully repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun' category.

Support for Food Irradiation and Quality Testing

The budget includes financial backing for the establishment of 50 multi-product food irradiation units within the MSME sector. Additionally, support will be provided for setting up 100 food quality and safety testing labs with NABL accreditation. To help MSMEs and traditional artisans access international markets, E-Commerce Export Hubs will be created through public-private partnerships (PPP).



Internship Opportunities

As part of the Prime Minister's package, a new scheme will be introduced to offer internship opportunities at 500 leading companies for 1 crore youth over the next five years.

Urban Development Urban Housing

The PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 will address the housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families with a substantial investment of ₹10 lakh crore. This initiative includes central assistance of ₹2.2 lakh crore over the next five years.

Water Supply and Sanitation

In collaboration with State Governments and Multilateral Development Banks, the government will advance water supply, sewage treatment, and solid waste management projects for 100 major cities through bankable projects.

PM SVANidhi

Building on the success of the PM SVANidhi Scheme, which has greatly benefited street vendors, the government plans to support the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs in select cities annually over the next five years.

Energy Security

The Finance Minister announced the





"Public welfare budget." Adityanath further quoted, "Under the guidance of the respected prime minister, the all-encompassing, all-inclusive, and development-oriented General Budget 2024–25 presented by the Union Finance Minister is going to <u>fulfil the</u>

hopes and aspirations of 140 crore Indians and all the resolutions of Amritkaal"

YOGI ADITYANATH Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

launch of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, aligning with the interim budget's objectives. This initiative aims to install rooftop solar panels, providing 1 crore households with up to 300 units of free electricity each month. The scheme has already seen an impressive response, with over 1.28 crore registrations and 14 lakh applications.

Nuclear energy is anticipated to play a crucial role in the energy mix for a developed India.

Infrastructure

The Finance Minister emphasized that the Central Government's substantial investments in infrastructure over the years have generated a significant multiplier effect on the economy. To sustain this momentum, the government will continue to provide robust fiscal support for infrastructure development over the next five years, while balancing other priorities and fiscal consolidation efforts. This year, ₹11,11,111 crore has been allocated for capital expenditure, representing 3.4% of our GDP.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

The Finance Minister announced the launch of Phase IV of PMGSY, which will enhance all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations newly eligible due to population growth.

For irrigation and flood mitigation in Bihar, the government will allocate financial support of ₹11,500 crore through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and other sources. This funding will support projects such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and 20 additional schemes, including barrages, river pollution control, and irrigation projects. Assistance will also be provided to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim for flood management, landslides, and related projects.

Innovation, Research & Development

The Finance Minister announced the establishment of the Anusandhan National Research Fund to support basic research and prototype development. Additionally, a new mechanism will be introduced to foster private sector-driven research and innovation at a commercial scale, backed by a financing pool of ₹1 lakh crore, as previously outlined in the interim budget.

Space Economy

To advance the space economy, with a goal of expanding it fivefold over the next decade, a venture capital fund of ₹1,000 crore will be created.

Next Generation Reforms Economic Policy Framework

The Finance Minister announced the development of an Economic Policy Framework to outline the strategic approach to economic development and define the scope for the next generation of reforms. This framework aims to enhance employment opportunities and support sustained high growth.

Labour-Related Reforms

The government will improve services for labor, including employment and skills development, through a comprehensive integration of the e-Shram portal with other platforms to provide a unified solution. Additionally, the Shram Suvidha and Samadhan portals will be revamped to streamline compliance for industry and trade.

Climate Finance

The government will establish a taxonomy for climate finance to improve the availability of capital for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Foreign Direct Investment and Overseas Investment

The rules and regulations governing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Overseas Investments will be simplified to: (1) facilitate foreign direct investments, (2) encourage prioritization, and (3) promote the use of the Indian Rupee for overseas investments.

NPS Vatsalya

The NPS-Vatsalya scheme will be introduced, allowing parents and guardians to make contributions on behalf of minors. Upon reaching adulthood, the scheme can be effortlessly converted into a standard NPS account.

New Pension Scheme (NPS)

The Finance Minister noted that the Committee reviewing the NPS has made significant progress. A solution will be developed that addresses key issues while ensuring fiscal prudence to protect the interests of the common citizens.

Budget Estimates 2024-25

The Finance Minister announced that for the fiscal year 2024-25, total receipts, excluding borrowings, are estimated at ₹32.07 lakh crore, while total expenditure is projected at ₹48.21 lakh crore. Net tax receipts are anticipated to be ₹25.83 lakh crore, and the fiscal deficit is estimated at



4.9% of GDP.

Gross and net market borrowings through dated securities for 2024-25 are expected to reach ₹14.01 lakh crore and ₹11.63 lakh crore, respectively.

Smt. Sitharaman highlighted that the fiscal consolidation strategy outlined in 2021 has been beneficial for the economy, and the government aims to reduce the deficit to below 4.5% next year.

In addition to providing relief to four crore salaried individuals and pensioners through direct tax adjustments, the Union Budget 2024-25 plans a comprehensive review of both direct and indirect taxes over the next six months. This review will focus on simplifying the tax system, reducing tax incidence and compliance burdens, and broadening the tax base. The Budget proposes a thorough rationalization of the GST structure and a review of Customs Duty rates to enhance the tax base and support domestic manufacturing.

Investment and Employment Promotion

To encourage investment and boost employment, the Budget has enhanced support for entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem by abolishing angel tax for all investor categories. It also proposes a simplified tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises, recognizing the significant potential of cruise tourism. Foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in India will benefit from safe harbor rates, supporting the diamond industry. Additionally, the corporate tax rate for foreign companies has been reduced from 40% to 35% to attract foreign capital.

Tax Reforms

The Budget simplifies the direct tax regime for charities by merging the two existing tax exemption regimes into one. The TDS rate structure is streamlined, with a reduction in TDS rates from 5% to 2% for many payments and the withdrawal of the 20% TDS on mutual fund or UTI unit repurchases. The TDS rate for e-commerce operators is reduced from 1% to 0.1%, and TCS credits can now be

Income Slabs	Tax Rate	
o – 3 Lakh rupees	NIL	
3 – 7 Lakh rupees	5 per cent	
7 – 10 Lakh rupees	10 per cent	
10 – 12 Lakh rupees	15 per cent	
12 – 15 Lakh rupees	20 per cent	
Above 15 Lakh rupees	30 per cent	

Table 1: New Tax Regime Tax Structure

A detailed review of the Income Tax Act is also planned to minimize disputes and litigation while making the legislation clearer and more accessible. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman noted that the simplification of tax regimes, without exemptions and deductions, has been well received by taxpayers. In 2022-23, over 58% of corporate tax revenue came from the simplified tax regime, and more than two-thirds of taxpayers have adopted the new personal income tax regime. Budget 2024-25 increased standard deduction of salaried employees from ₹50,000/- to ₹75,000/- for those opting for new tax regime. Similarly, deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹15,000/- to ₹25,000/-. Assessments now, can be reopened beyond three years up to 5 years from end of year of assessment, only if, the escaped income is more than ₹50 Lakh. The new tax regime rate structure is also revised to give a salaried employee benefits up to ₹17,500/- in income tax.



"The Budget 2024–25 not only exemplifies Bharat's newfound sense of purpose, hope and optimism under the PM Modi Ji-led government but also fortifies them. Harnessing the power of Bharat's youth, Nari Shakti and farmers, the budget fuels the nation's pace on the path of

emerging as a developed nation by ushering in a new era of employment and opportunities. My heartfelt gratitude to PM Shri Narendra Modi and FM Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman for the pro-people and prodevelopment visionary budget."

SHRI AMIT SHAH

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation



"Initiatives reflect our commitment to sustainable development, technological innovation, and economic growth."

SHRI G KISHAN REDDY Union Minister of Coal and Mines



"I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman for record allocation of Rs 2,62,200 Cr. for Railways.A significant fund has been earmarked for safety related activities

in Railways. In third term of this government, Railways has continued to get a boost."

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW

Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronic & IT



"Budget 2024-25 will boost StartUps and the StartUp ecosystem through bold and innovative proposals like ending "Angel Tax" and introducing paid Internship."

DR. JITENDRA SINGH Union Minister



Under the new capital gains tax regime, short-term gains on certain financial assets will be taxed at 20%, while long-term gains on all financial and non-financial assets will be taxed at 12.5%. The exemption limit for capital gains has been increased to ₹1.25 lakh per year to benefit lower and middle-income groups. Assets held for over a year and unlisted assets held for more than two years will be classified as long-term. Unlisted bonds, debentures, debt mutual funds, and market-linked debentures will continue to be subject to



applicable capital gains tax.

GST and Custom Duties

The Finance Minister praised GST for reducing tax incidence on the common man and simplifying compliance, noting its success in lowering logistics costs for trade and industry. The government plans to further streamline and expand the GST framework to cover remaining sectors and

applied to TDS deductions from salaries. Additionally, delays in TDS payments up to the due date for filing TDS statements are decriminalized, and a Standard Operating Procedure will be introduced for simplified compounding guidelines for TDS defaults.

Capital Gains Taxation





COVER STORY



"Union Budget 2024 lays the Roadmap for Renewed & Holistic Growth towards Viksit Bharat."

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL



"PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana will benefit Middle class, Lower middle class and poor people and is one of the best schemes in the world"

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy

digitize remaining Customs and Income Tax services over the next two years.

Custom duties have been revised to facilitate trade and reduce disputes. Relief measures include the full exemption of customs duties on three cancer treatment medicines (Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab), reductions in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on X-ray machine tubes, mobile phones, PCBA, and mobile chargers. To support critical mineral processing, customs duties on 25 rare earth minerals have been fully exempted, and BCD on two of these minerals has been reduced. Capital goods for solar panel manufacturing are exempt from customs duties. BCD on seafoodrelated imports and materials for leather and textiles has been reduced to boost competitiveness. Duties on gold, silver, and platinum have been adjusted, and duties on ammonium nitrate and PVC flex banners have been increased to address environmental concerns and support domestic manufacturing.

Dispute Resolution and Litigation

To address dispute resolution and backlog issues, the Union Finance Minister proposed the Vivad se Vishwas Scheme, 2024, aimed at resolving certain income tax disputes pending in appeals. The monetary limits for filing appeals related to direct taxes, excise, and service tax have been increased to ₹60 lakh, ₹2 crore, and ₹5 crore for High Courts, Supreme



Courts, and tribunals, respectively. Additionally, the scope of safe harbor rules will be expanded, and transfer pricing assessment procedures will be streamlined to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.



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EMPOWERING JHARKHAND The Visionary Leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren

Nestled in India's mineral-rich heartland, Jharkhand is a state of immense natural beauty and potential. At its helm, Chief Minister Hemant Soren is emerging as a transformative leader whose policies and initiatives are redefining governance and setting new benchmarks for socio-economic development. Under his stewardship, Jharkhand is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth and revitalization, driven by a vision that integrates progressive reforms with a deep commitment to the well-being of its people.

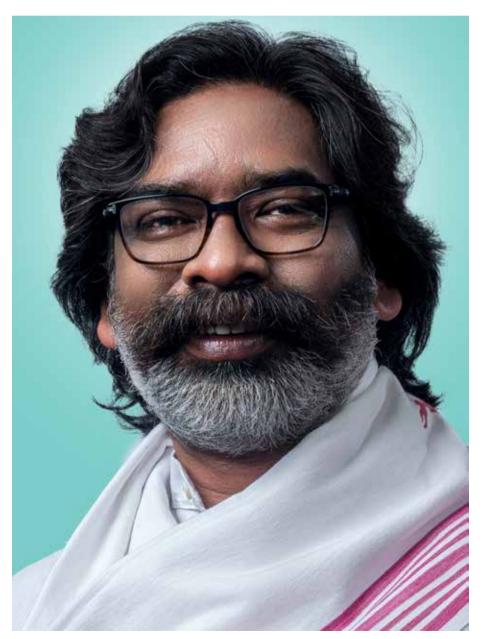
A New Dawn for Jharkhand

ince assuming office in December 2019, Chief Minister Hemant Soren has focused on harnessing Jharkhand's potential while addressing long-standing challenges. His administration is witnessing significant progress across multiple critical sectors, reflecting a comprehensive approach to development that goes beyond mere policy changes.

Revitalizing Education

Education has been a cornerstone of Soren's agenda. Recognizing its pivotal role in shaping the future, his government has launched the 'Jharkhand Education Advancement Program' aimed at transforming the state's educational landscape. This initiative has led to the renovation of over 2,000 schools and colleges, the implementation of digital classrooms in 500 institutions, and enhanced training for teachers. Enrollment rates in primary and secondary education have surged by 15% in the last two years, with improved student performance and reduced dropout rates. The introduction of scholarship schemes and vocational training programs is further bridging the urban-rural educational divide.

• Scholarship Programs: The government has launched various scholarship programs for students from marginalized communities to promote





higher education.

• Infrastructure Development: Significant investments have been made in improving the infrastructure of schools and colleges, including the establishment of smart classrooms and better facilities.

Healthcare Initiatives

The healthcare sector has also seen a dramatic overhaul under Soren's leadership. The 'Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Yojana' has been a game-changer, providing free healthcare services and essential medicines to over 10 million residents. New healthcare facilities have been established, including 50 new primary health centers and 20 district hospitals. Mobile health units have been deployed to reach remote areas, improving access to medical services for millions. Additionally, the government's focus on preventive healthcare has led to a significant reduction in incidences of vector-borne diseases.

• COVID-19 Management: The government effectively managed the COVID-19 pandemic by setting up dedicated COVID hospitals, enhancing testing capacities, and ensuring the availability of vaccines. They also launched the "Swasthya Saathi" scheme to provide health insurance to the poor.

• Jharkhand Swasthya Suraksha Yojana: This scheme aims to provide free healthcare services to economically weaker sections, ensuring that the marginalized populations receive necessary medical attention.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

Infrastructure development is





another key focus area. The 'Jharkhand Infrastructure Development Plan' has seen the construction of 1,200 kilometers of new roads, 80 new bridges, and the expansion of public transportation networks. Notably, the state government has initiated a major project to connect 1,000 villages with major cities through improved road networks and enhanced connectivity. These developments are expected to boost economic activities, facilitate trade, and improve the quality of life for residents.

• Road and Transport: Significant investments have been made in the

construction of roads and highways to improve connectivity within the state and with neighboring states.

• Urban Development: Efforts are underway to develop urban infrastructure, including the establishment of smart cities and better municipal services.

Agricultural Innovation

Agriculture, being the backbone of Jharkhand's economy, has been prioritized through several innovative schemes. The 'Sustainable Agriculture Initiative' has introduced modern farming techniques, subsidies for high-quality seeds, and advanced irrigation systems. Over 50,000 farmers have benefited from crop insurance schemes, which have helped mitigate risks associated with unpredictable weather patterns. Initial reports indicate a 20% increase in crop yields and a 25% rise in farmer incomes since the initiative's launch.

• Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana: This scheme provides financial assistance to farmers, aiming to boost agricultural productivity and ensure the economic well-being of farmers.

• Water Conservation Projects: Initiatives to improve irrigation facilities and water conservation have been a priority to ensure sustainable agricultural practices.

Social Welfare Schemes

• Phoolo Jhano Ashirwad Abhiyan:



This initiative aims to rehabilitate women involved in illegal liquor production by providing them alternative livelihood opportunities.

• Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS): The government has been working through JSLPS to improve the livelihoods of rural populations by promoting self-help groups and various skill development programs.

Environmental Conservation

• Afforestation Projects: Large-scale





afforestation projects have been initiated to combat deforestation and promote environmental sustainability.

• Renewable Energy: The state is also focusing on the development of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to ensure a sustainable energy supply.

Empowering Tribal Communities

A distinctive feature of Soren's governance is his focus on tribal communities. The 'Tribal Empowerment and Development Program' aims to protect tribal rights, preserve cultural heritage, and promote self-reliance. This program has provided financial assistance to over 10,000 tribal families for self-employment ventures and supported the revival of traditional crafts. Additionally, land rights for tribal communities have been reinforced, ensuring their active participation in the state's development.

• Land Rights: The government has been active in addressing the land rights issues of tribal communities, ensuring that their ancestral lands are protected.

• **Cultural Preservation:** Initiatives to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of tribal communities have been undertaken, including the promotion of tribal languages and arts.

Law and Order

• Strengthening Policing: The government has taken steps to strengthen the police force, including better training and the introduction of modern equipment to ensure law and order.

• Anti-corruption Measures: Anticorruption measures have been enforced to ensure transparency and accountability in governance.

Digital Initiatives

• E-Governance: The administration





has been focusing on e-governance to make public services more accessible and efficient.

• Digital Literacy Programs: Efforts have been made to improve digital literacy among the rural population to bridge the digital divide.

Tourism Development

• Promotion of Tourist Spots: The government is working on promoting various tourist spots in Jharkhand to boost tourism and generate employment opportunities.

• Infrastructure for Tourists: Development of infrastructure, such as better roads, hotels, and facilities, to enhance the tourist experience.

Commitment to Good Governance

Soren's administration is marked by a commitment to transparency and accountability. Measures to combat corruption include the implementation of e-governance systems and regular public audits. The establishment of grievance redressal mechanisms and public hearings has fostered a culture of open dialogue and citizen engagement. These initiatives have strengthened trust between the government and its constituents, ensuring that public resources are utilized effectively.

Looking Ahead

As Jharkhand continues to evolve under

Hemant Soren's visionary leadership, the state stands as a testament to the power of dedicated governance. His holistic approach, characterized by a blend of progressive reforms and grassroots engagement, is paving the way for a brighter future.

The progress achieved so far offers a hopeful glimpse into the transformative potential of leadership that is both visionary and pragmatic. For Jharkhand, this is not merely a new chapter but the dawn of a new era-one where development is inclusive, sustainable, and deeply rooted in the needs and aspirations of its people.

In a nation often characterized by uneven development, Chief Minister Hemant Soren's approach serves as a model of sustained progress and holistic growth, promising a future where Jharkhand's promise is fully realized and its people thrive.

Under the leadership of Hemant Soren, Jharkhand has witnessed significant development across various sectors. The government's focus on healthcare, education, agriculture, industrial growth, social welfare, and environmental conservation has laid a strong foundation for the state's progress. The administration's efforts to empower marginalized communities, promote digital initiatives, and develop tourism further highlight their commitment to holistic development. **EDUCATION**

Ministry of Education Commemorates 4th Anniversary of National Education Policy 2020 with Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2024



NEP 2020 stands as symbol of hope for transforming learning landscape, harnessing country's demographic dividend, empowering population and driving socio-economic development – Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

EP 2020 includes India's rich heritage, synthesis of traditional knowledge with modern advancements, and integration of value education with nationbuilding at its core - Dr. Sukanta Majumdar

The Ministry of Education marked the 4th anniversary of the National Education Policy 2020 with the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2024, held at the Manekshaw Centre Auditorium in New Delhi. The event was attended by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education and Minister of State (IC) for the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Minister of State for Education and Development of North Eastern Region. Also present were Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the Department of School Education & Literacy, as well as academicians, Vice Chancellors, officials, and students.

The Ministers launched several significant NEP 2020 initiatives of the Ministry of Education, such as Dedicated TV Channels to facilitate learning of various Indian languages, a Tamil Channel; Primers for early graders in 25 Indian languages in pursuance to 54 already done; 10 Bagless days Guidelines aimed to transform learning into a fun, stress-free experience in schools; Career Guidance Guidelines, a massive library of over 500 job cards; NMM (National Mission for Mentoring) and National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) in Braille and Audio Books; School Innovation Marathon by AICTE, NITI Aayog, and AIM; and a book on Graduation Attributes and Professional Competencies. They also unveiled four books and lecture notes aimed at promoting the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) among students and teachers.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, in his message, said that the four-year journey of NEP 2020 has been about bringing in transformative change in the country's education system for nurturing a new generation of learners. NEP 2020 stands as a symbol of hope for transforming the learning landscape, harnessing the country's demographic dividend, empowering the population and driving socio-economic development, he also mentioned. He said the implementation of NEP has made learning more vibrant and guided in making the country's education more futuristic, rooted, global and outcome-oriented. Expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he reiterated his commitment to implement NEP in letter and spirit to make the country a 21stcentury knowledge economy.

He also praised the 'Panch Pran' musical performance by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan students at the event, which drew inspiration from the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Addressing the audience, Shri Jayant Chaudhary underscored the profound impact of teachers and their pivotal role in shaping students' lives. He emphasized that the future of the nation rests in the hands of teachers, alongside farmers and scientists, who are the three pillars envisioning the country's future. Shri Chaudhary also noted that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, crafted based on stakeholder recommendations, marks a transformative shift from the old system, aligning education with 21st-century needs.

He highlighted the critical role of states as key stakeholders and urged them to collaborate in a unified effort to benefit the entire education ecosystem, including students, teachers, and administrators. Shri Chaudhary expressed gratitude to Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for addressing future challenges and emphasized that the success of the progressive NEP 2020 depends on its collective implementation. He specifically acknowledged the APAAR presentation for its practical insights into both successes and challenges.

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his visionary ideas that shaped NEP 2020. He described the policy as a transformative journey that goes beyond mere certification, integrating India's rich heritage with modern advancements and value education for nation-building. Dr. Majumdar praised the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam, reflecting the essence of "Vikas bhi Virasat bhi," as a unique platform for dialogue among all education sector stakeholders. He also thanked Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for his effective leadership in advancing NEP 2020 over the past three years.

Shri K. Sanjay Murthy lauded the NEP 2020 reform agenda, emphasizing the seamless integration of school and higher education through the APAAR platform. Shri Sanjay Kumar, presenting the vote of thanks, noted Prime Minister Modi's endorsement of NEP 2020 as a catalyst for radical change and urged the implementation of its recommendations at the grassroots level. He also mentioned the "Shiksha Saptah" campaign celebrated in schools nationwide. Shri Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, presented on credit accumulation and the seamless integration of various types of learning, including skilling, using the APAAR ID platform.

EDUCATION

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has unveiled the NATS 2.0 portal and distributed Rs. 100 crore in stipends via DBT to young graduates and diploma holders for on-the-job training

hri Dharmendra Pradhan stated that the NATS Portal 2.0 represents a major initiative to democratize apprenticeships, address skill gaps, meet youth aspirations, and prepare them for the future.

Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme 2.0 Portal in New Delhi and distributed ₹100 crore in stipends to apprentices through the DBT mode. These apprentices are receiving training in sectors such as IT/ITes, manufacturing, and automotive. This initiative reflects the Government's commitment to enhancing youth skilling and employability. The NATS 2.0 portal is anticipated to attract a large number of beneficiaries for apprenticeship registrations and applications. It will also assist establishments and industries in managing their vacancies and contracts. Consequently, many young graduates and diploma holders will gain valuable employability skills along with a guaranteed monthly stipend.

During the event, two panel discussions were held on the Future of Apprenticeships, covering topics such as the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program, awarding credits for all apprenticeships, industry and higher education collaboration, and leveraging technology for DBT and enhancing e-Governance. These discussions were attended by distinguished dignitaries, academicians, and students. The top three establishments-Cognizant Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Infosys Ltd., and Tech Mahindra Pvt. Ltd.-were recognized for their contributions.

Notable attendees included Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of the Department of Higher Education; Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE; Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of UGC; Shri Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairperson of NETF; Shri Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary of MoE; and Shri Gaurav Singh, Director of Higher Education, along with other academicians, officials, and students. Additionally, two apprentices shared their experiences during the event.

In his address to the gathering, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan emphasized that the NATS Portal 2.0 represents a major initiative to democratize apprenticeships, bridge skill gaps, fulfill youth aspirations, and prepare them for the future. He noted that the portal, launched today, will expand



apprenticeship opportunities and facilitate the matching of candidates with employers.

He further highlighted that in today's technology-driven world, success is not only about obtaining degrees but also about building competencies. He urged that course curricula should focus more on enhancing employability skills. Shri Pradhan also pointed out that this year's budget places significant emphasis on boosting skilling and employment, and he called for the apprenticeship ecosystem to cover diverse and emerging areas. He urged all stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy to capitalize on the country's demographic dividend.

Shri Pradhan encouraged educational institutions and industries to join the NATS 2.0 portal, asserting that making apprenticeship a widespread movement is essential.

To ensure that stipendiary benefits are delivered efficiently, transparently, and in a timely manner, the Government of India has implemented Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) for stipend payments directly to apprentices' bank accounts starting in 2024. The goal is to extend this DBT system to cover all beneficiaries of the scheme.

The NATS 2.0 portal, developed by the Ministry of Education with support from AICTE and BoATs/BoPT, serves as a comprehensive platform for managing the entire apprenticeship lifecycle. This includes student registration, vacancy advertisements, application processing, contract creation, certification, and stipend disbursement through DBT. The portal, which has been upgraded from its pilot phase, is now fully operational and utilized by students, industries, institutions, and implementing bodies such as BoATs/BoPT.

Aligned with NEP 2020, which aims to integrate vocational education and remove barriers between educational streams, draft guidelines for Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) have been issued by UGC and AICTE to further this vision.



"Commemorating 25 YEARS OF KARGIL DIWAS Honoring Sacrifice and Valor"

26th July, plays a crucial role in the history of India. It is a day to honor the indomitable spirit of the soldiers who fought for our country. Their legacy of bravery and sacrifice remains etched in the annals of history and in the hearts of every Indian. On this day, we remember their heroism, celebrate their valor, and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the ideals they held.

"I salute the brave sons of the country who made the supreme sacrifice to protect the motherland," Shri Modi said.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi pays homage to the bravehearts on Kargil Vijay Diwas and attends Shradhanjali Samaroh in Ladakh. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid tribute to the valiant soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Kargil War, commemorating the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh. The Prime Minister also participated in the Shraddhanjali Samaroh, where he listened to the "Gaurav Gatha," a briefing on the Kargil conflict by NCOs, and visited the Amar Sansmaran: Hut of Remembrance. He also toured the Veer Bhoomi.

In addition, Prime Minister Modi observed the virtual inauguration of the Shinkun La Tunnel Project in Ladakh. This ambitious project includes a 4.1 km twin-tube tunnel, set to be constructed at an altitude of approximately 15,800 feet along the Nimu–Padum–Darcha Road. Once completed, it will stand as the highest tunnel globally. The Shinkun La Tunnel will facilitate year-round connectivity to Leh, enhance the movement of military forces and equipment, and drive economic and social development in Ladakh.

During the Shraddhanjali Samaroh, Prime Minister Modi reflected on the significance of Kargil Vijay Diwas, stating that it underscores the eternal nature of the sacrifices made for the nation. "The sacrifices made for our nation are immortal," he affirmed. Despite the passage of time, he emphasized that the lives sacrificed to safeguard the nation's borders remain a permanent testament to their valor. "The nation is eternally grateful to our armed forces' heroes," he added.

Recalling the Kargil conflict, Prime Minister Modi expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be among the soldiers during that critical time, highlighting their remarkable efforts at such high altitudes. "I salute the brave sons of the country who made the supreme sacrifice for our motherland," he said.

Prime Minister Modi praised the Kargil conflict as not just a military victory but a demonstration of "truth, restraint, and strength." He condemned Pakistan's deceitful actions while India sought peace and noted how truth and valor overcame falsehood and terror.



Addressing the issue of terrorism, the Prime Minister criticized Pakistan for its continued attempts to wage proxy wars and terrorism despite past defeats. "The nefarious intentions of terrorists will never succeed," he assured, reaffirming that India's brave soldiers would thwart all terror attempts.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the progress in Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, mentioning that the region is on a path to development and prosperity. With the upcoming fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, he noted the significant strides in infrastructure, tourism, and cultural events, such as the reopening of cinema halls and the resumption of tazia processions.

Emphasizing the impact of the Shinkun La Tunnel, the Prime Minister remarked that it will ensure year-round connectivity for Ladakh and open new avenues for the region's growth. "This tunnel will ease many of the hardships caused by extreme weather and pave the way for a brighter future for Ladakh," he concluded, extending congratulations to the people of Ladakh for this milestone development.

Operation Vijay' celebrated with fervour at Veerula Sainik Smarak, Secunderabad

Kargil Victory Day, honoring the triumph of 'Operation Vijay,' was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Veerula Sainik Smarak in Secunderabad. The event featured a dignified wreath-laying ceremony, conducted under the auspices of Headquarters Telangana and Andhra Sub Area. The ceremony was marked by the stirring performance of a military band, setting a reverent and respectful tone. Attendees gathered to pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of the armed forces, reinforcing the nation's dedication to safeguarding its sovereignty.

On this date 25 years ago, India achieved a pivotal victory by reclaiming strategic high-altitude positions that had been seized by Pakistani intruders during the Kargil War. Each year, July 26 is observed as Kargil Vijay Diwas to honor the courageous soldiers who gave their lives in this significant conflict. At Veerula Sainik Smarak, the ceremony was a moving homage to the martyrs. Military personnel, dressed in full ceremonial regalia and adorned with their medals, paid their respects to their fallen comrades. The event began with the junior-most soldier laying the first wreath, followed by senior officers, and concluded with Major General Rakesh Manocha, SM, VSM, General Officer Commanding of HQ Telangana & Andhra Sub Area, laying a wreath.

Simultaneously, Lulu Mall in Hyderabad hosted a commemorative event in partnership with the Indian Army. Over three days, starting July 26, the mall featured an arms and ammunition exhibition open to students and the public, organized by Lulu Hyderabad and presented by the Indian Army. The event also showcased cultural performances by NCC cadets.

During the occasion, Lieutenant General Kammula R. Rao, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), delivered a speech detailing the efforts and valor of the Indian Armed Forces during the Kargil conflict.

Indian Navy Half Marathon, New Delhi



Indian Navy to Host Half Marathon in New Delhi on February 2, 2025, to Promote Health, Fitness, and Community Engagement Registrations for the event will open in September 2024. The inaugural Indian Navy Half Marathon in New Delhi, originally set for October 6, 2024, will now take place on February 2, 2025. The event is designed to strengthen the Navy's connections with the community and increase awareness of its crucial role in maritime security and national interests.

The marathon aims to promote health and fitness by encouraging participants from all backgrounds to engage in physical activity and adopt an active lifestyle for overall well-being.

Additionally, the event will emphasize values such as gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusivity. By involving people from diverse backgrounds, it will showcase the Navy's dedication to fostering a culture of inclusiveness and equal opportunity.

The marathon will also aim to build stronger connections among residents of the NCR and beyond, inspiring young people to explore adventurous careers with the Indian Navy.

The event will feature a Half Marathon (21.1 km), along with 10 km and 5 km runs, accommodating participants of all ages and fitness levels. It is expected to become an annual tradition, complementing similar events held by the Navy in Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam, and Kochi.



7 Picture Perfect Beach Destinations for Your Next Vacation

From the Seychelles to Oman, we have picked the beaches with unique characters. Lounge on the soft sand, get a taste of adventure, or enjoy nature's masterstrokes, what's your vibe?

Krabi Calling

Away from the southern mainland by steep limestone cliffs, Krabi is a crescent beach. The limestone formations make it a great destination for rock climbing, and the emerald waters of the lagoon are perfect for kayaking and paddleboarding. Head to the Phra Nang beach to explore caves and admire coral reefs. Sit back in the pillowy sand to witness a breathtaking sunset on the Railay West beach before returning to the mainland via ferry. For an uber luxurious touch, retreat to Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, where the staff, personal butler and tailored experience await. Treat yourself to Michelin-star chef's creations and a rejuvenating session at the spa set amidst tropical gardens.





Under the Seychellois Sun

The island country of Seychelles is known for its picturesque beaches and clear waters. One of the longest on the island, the Beau Vallon Beach on Mahé is straight out of a postcard. The azure water of the Indian Ocean and the white sandy beach make for a fun day out in the sun. You can listen to the music of the sea lounging on the shore or partake in a variety of water sports, including but not limited to jet skiing, windsurfing and scuba diving. The water is perfect for snorkelling, paddleboarding and kayaking. Rent a crystal kayak and glide over the waves as you encounter colourful marine species, even baby sharks.

Enchanting Mui Ne

The palm-fringed honey-hued stretch of beaches of Mui Ne in Vietnam are dreamlike. The Hon Lao Beach, also known as the Hon Ghenh, is a must-visit. Surrounded by rock formations and perfect for pictures, the relatively untouched beauty of this beach will captivate you. The tranquil atmosphere and clear water only add to its calming vibe. If you are looking for thrill, then grab some gear and go snorkelling or head to the thoughtfully designed, luxurious Anam Mui Ne. Try your hands at the cultural activities and master the art of authentic Vietnamese cuisine in a step-by-step cooking class with some secret tips from the chefs.





Muscat Marine Adventure

If you are looking for a short-haul family vacation at a stunning beachfront, Muscat offers the perfect solution. Located between the Hajar mountains and the Gulf of Oman is a private 500-metre-long white sand beach by Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah. Colourful coral reefs, rays, eels and the cutest sea turtles will greet you as you row your kayak or go snorkelling. Between February and September, you can witness the natural wonders of the turtle hatching at the property's private beach, one of the five nesting sites for endangered turtle species. Enjoy a day at the sea spotting dolphins and whale sharks, or let the kids enjoy camel rides on the beach.

A Hidden Sri Lankan Paradise

Nestled away on the southern coast of Sri Lanka in coconut plantations is the horseshoe bay of Instagram-worthy Hiriketiya Beach. Go for a dip in the sheltered bay or hit the waves at the best surfing spots, catering to beginners and pros. If you want immersive more experiences like aerial whale watching or wish to whip up authentic local cuisine, head to Fort Bazaar by Teardrop Hotels. Rejuvenate in this 17th-century townhouse, where warm staff ensure that your stay is infused with the charm of Sri Lankan hospitality.



TOURISM 📒

Maldivian Island Bliss

With leafy jungle foliage and sparkling white sand, the pristine Faafu Atoll is a haven abundant with colourful marine life and vibrant coral. Just 120 km from Male Velana International Airport, Filitheyo Resort is accessible via a 35-minute seaplane journey followed by a 10-minute traditional dhoni ride. The warm turquoise lagoon invites you to splash in its clear waters, while private starlit dinners, boat excursions to explore nearby islands and a unique jungle spa offer endless opportunities for relaxation and adventure. Scuba diving enthusiasts can explore bustling house reef teeming with fish, reef sharks, and rays, and daily excursions offered by the Werner Lau dive centre.





Beach Day Out at Al Marjan Island

Renowned for its glittering skyscrapers and golden desert, the UAE has much more to offer. Beyond the rolling dunes in Ras Al Khaimah, you will discover a hub for beach fun. Enjoy a picnic on the Al Marjan Island beach, a game of beach volleyball on this long stretch of soft sand, take a dip in the blue water, or catch the sunset. If you want to take it up a notch, head to Ras Al Khaimah's largest floating water park at Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island. Its private beach and a fully-equipped Water Sports Centre are where you can enjoy motorised and non-motorised water sports.



"46th World Heritage Committee Meeting to Highlight India's Diverse Cultural and Natural Heritage, Says Union Culture Minister"

"Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat: International Meeting Enhances India's Global Soft Power"

Union Culture Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Announces 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting to Elevate India's Cultural and Natural Heritage.



nion Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, announced that the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting will spotlight India's diverse cultural and natural heritage, aiming to elevate the nation's cultural prominence on the global stage. The meeting, which India is hosting for the first time, will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the session, joined by UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay and other high-profile dignitaries.

Shekhawat praised the Culture Ministry



for its swift organization of the event within 40 days and highlighted its significance as India's first major international event under Prime Minister Modi's third term. He noted that the meeting would enhance India's global soft power and offer a platform for international outreach.

The meeting's logo, inspired by the stone chariot from Hampi's Vijaya Vitthala

Temple, symbolizes India's architectural and sculptural excellence. The tagline "सह नौ यशः" (May our Glory Grow), derived from the Taitiriya Upanishad, reflects India's aspirations to advance the World Heritage Convention.

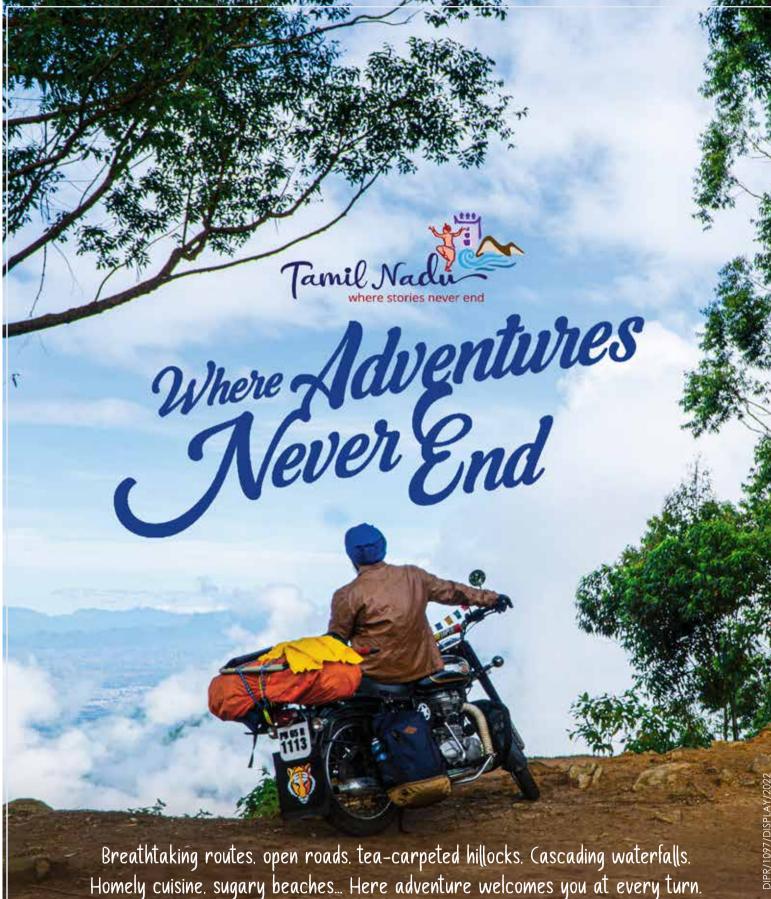
Shri Vishal V. Sharma, Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, and Shri Yaduvir Singh Rawat, Director General of ASI, joined Shekhawat at the press conference, which included briefings on the World Heritage Convention and the committee's functions. The 46th session will address the nomination and preservation of World Heritage sites and provide a platform for global cooperation.

The meeting will feature parallel events, including the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum and the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum. Additionally, side events and exhibitions will highlight India's cultural, digital, and medicinal



achievements. Local tours and excursions will further showcase India's heritage.

India, which is serving its fourth term on the World Heritage Committee, has 42 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and 57 sites on the Tentative List. This meeting underscores India's growing role in fostering global heritage preservation and cooperation.



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Air France-KLM Names Stefan Gumuseli as General Manager for India and the Middle East

ir France-KLM has announced the appointment of Stefan Gumuseli as the new General Manager for the India-Middle East region. Based in Dubai, UAE, Stefan will oversee the passenger business across a diverse array of countries, including India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Egypt, along with additional offline markets.

Claude Sarre will continue to lead operations in India and the Sub-Continent as Country Manager from New Delhi, ensuring ongoing focused leadership in this crucial market.

In his new role, Stefan Gumuseli will be responsible for strengthening Air France-KLM's regional presence, enhancing customer proximity, upholding sustainability commitments, and maintaining an attractive workplace.



Stefan began his career with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines in 2001 and brings extensive experience in commercial, sales, and operational roles. Over the past 20 years, he has held significant positions in Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Nigeria. In 2011, he was appointed Director of Global Corporate Sales at Air France-KLM in the Netherlands, managing over 100 global corporate accounts. Since 2013, he has served as General Manager in various regions, including the Mediterranean, Germany, and the Mid Americas.

Commenting on his new role, Stefan Gumuseli said, "I am excited to join the India-Middle East team and work with such a talented and dedicated group. This region presents significant opportunities and potential for the Air France-KLM Group. I am confident that, with the support of our teams and partners, we will continue to expand our presence and deliver exceptional experiences to our customers."

India's fastest-growing airline, Akasa Air, has announced Kuwait as its fifth international destination.

kasa Air, India's fastest-growing airline, has announced Kuwait City as its fifth international destination. Starting August 23, 2024, the airline will offer daily direct flights between Kuwait City and Mumbai, addressing the demand for enhanced and affordable connectivity on this route. Bookings are now open via Akasa Air's website, mobile app for Android and iOS, and through various leading online travel agencies (OTAs).

This new service will significantly boost passenger and cargo capacity, catering to the high demand for both visiting friends and relatives (VFR) and business travel between India and Kuwait. Praveen Iyer, Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Akasa Air, commented, "The addition of Kuwait expands our international network and reinforces our role as a key connector between India and the Middle East. With strong historical ties between Kuwait and India, this direct service will foster greater trade and tourism between the two nations. Additionally, it will provide the large Indian expatriate community in Kuwait with improved access to their home country. We are committed to connecting people, places, and cultures with reliable operations and affordable fares, and we look forward to welcoming travelers on board."

Belson Coutinho, Co-Founder and Chief Marketing and Experience Officer, added, "India and Kuwait share a mutual commitment to hospitality, and we are excited to offer our seamless connectivity and warm, efficient Akasa experience to Kuwait. Our flights promise a relaxing and convenient journey with spacious cabins, in-seat USB charging on most aircraft, and our Quiet Flights initiative designed for restful travel. Our onboard dining service, Cafe Akasa, provides distinctive culinary options, elevating inflight dining. With our focus on world-class service, we are eager to showcase the Akasa experience to travelers and are confident they will appreciate it as much as millions of others have."

Since its launch in August 2022, Akasa Air has become a preferred carrier in India, serving over 11 million passengers. The airline currently connects 22 domestic cities and five international destinations: Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and now Kuwait.

Air India Express Expands Network with New Service to Dhaka, Its 15th International Destination

ir India Express is expanding its network with new flights to Dhaka, marking its 15th international destination. Starting September 3, 2024, the airline will operate six weekly flights connecting Dhaka to Kolkata and Chennai, boosting connectivity and fostering economic growth between India and Bangladesh.

The new flight schedule is as follows:



Bookings are now open through Air India Express's award-winning website, mobile app, and major booking channels. Introductory Xpress Lite fares are available on the airline's website, with prices as follows:

- Kolkata-Dhaka: ₹3,443
- Dhaka-Kolkata: ₹4,609
- Chennai-Dhaka: ₹4,796
- Dhaka-Chennai: ₹7,223

Aloke Singh, Managing Director of Air India Express, commented, "The launch of direct flights to Dhaka from Kolkata and Chennai represents a significant advancement in our connectivity across

Scheduled from September 3, 2024					
Departure	Arrival	Departure Time	Arrival Time	Frequency	
Kolkata	Dhaka	11:55	13:30	Tuesday to Sunday	
Dhaka	Kolkata	23:10	23:45	Tuesday to Sunday	
Chennai	Dhaka	19:00	22:10	Tuesday to Sunday	
Dhakka	Chennai	14:30	16:50	Tuesday to Sunday	

the Indian subcontinent. These routes will not only enhance travel convenience but also strengthen regional

ties and support trade, tourism, and medical travel. Additionally, the new services will connect with Air India Express flights to the Gulf region and Air India's long-haul international flights."

Passengers from cities such as Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kochi, Imphal, Jaipur, Surat, and Varanasi will benefit from convenient one-stop connections to Dhaka, while travelers from Dhaka will enjoy easier access to these Indian cities via Kolkata or Chennai.

With the new Dhaka routes, Kolkata becomes the third-largest hub for Air India

Express, offering 158 weekly flights to 13 direct destinations and 20 destinations through one-stop itineraries. Chennai will see over 85 weekly flights connecting to 13 direct destinations and 24 one-stop destinations.

Recently, Air India Express also added Agartala as its 32nd domestic destination, with daily direct flights to Kolkata and Guwahati.

Loyalty members booking through the airline's website and app can enjoy additional rewards, including exclusive discounts, special deals, up to 8% NeuCoins, and complimentary Xpress Ahead priority services. Special fares and benefits are also available for students, senior citizens, SMEs, and members of the Indian armed forces.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Fines Airline ₹5 Lakh for Refusing Boarding to Specially Abled Child and Parents

n May 7, 2022, an airline was reported to have denied boarding to a specially-abled child and their parents. Following the Fact-Finding Committee's report, the Directorate General of <u>Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a ₹5 lakh penalty on the airline.</u>

To promote awareness and sensitivity towards assisting passengers with disabilities or reduced mobility, the DGCA has introduced Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3, Series M, Part I. This regulation mandates training for airline personnel, airport operators, security staff, and customs and immigration officials, based on a module provided by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Additionally, to safeguard air travelers, the DGCA has issued CAR Section 3, Series M, Part IV, which outlines the facilities airlines must provide in cases of denied boarding, flight cancellations, and delays.

To ensure compliance with these regulations, the DGCA conducts random inspections at various airports across the country.

This information was provided by Shri Murlidhar Mohol, Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in a written reply to a Lok Sabha question today.

AVIATION

British Airways Launches £21 Million Fund to Train 200 Aspiring Pilots from Diverse Backgrounds



- British Airways will fully fund up to 200 places in its prestigious Speedbird Pilot Academy for the 2025 intake.
- This £21 million investment addresses the financial barrier of training, which typically costs £100,000, making it possible for a broader range of applicants to pursue a career as a commercial pilot.
- Announced at the Farnborough International Airshow, British Airways is the only airline to offer such a large-scale, fully-funded pilot training program.

British Airways has unveiled a $\pounds 21$ million initiative to provide up to 200 aspiring pilots with the opportunity to train without the burden of the $\pounds 100,000$ cost. This investment aims to democratize access to a pilot career and enhance social mobility and diversity within the airline's pilot community.

The Speedbird Pilot Academy, which opened last year, is designed to attract top talent and is already training 100 future pilots from a competitive pool of over 20,000 applicants. The program, initially set to offer 100 places in 2025, will now accommodate 200 trainees.

Training takes two years to become a qualified First Officer, and British Airways currently employs around 4,000 pilots.

The announcement was made at the Farnborough International Airshow, where British Airways is also showcasing a new A320neo aircraft featuring updated interiors and powered by over 35% Sustainable Aviation Fuel. Sean Doyle, Chairman and CEO of British Airways, stated, "I'm incredibly proud of the Speedbird Pilot Academy and its ability to provide talented individuals with the chance to fulfill their dream of becoming a commercial pilot, despite the high cost of training. By increasing the 2025 cohort, we aim to offer more people the opportunity to realize their ambitions."

Ryan Street, a cadet from Stockport, shared his journey: "Being selected for the Speedbird Pilot Academy was a dream come true. Without British Airways' support, I might not have been able to afford the training. I am grateful for this opportunity to pursue my lifelong ambition."

Melanie Odden, a cadet from Hertfordshire, added: "Becoming a pilot has been my lifelong dream. Despite facing various barriers, including starting in a different career and managing a young family, the Speedbird Pilot Academy has given me the chance to achieve my goals and work towards becoming a training captain."

Jaffna Joins IndiGo's Global Network as 34th International Destination with Direct Flights from Chennai

- Jaffna is now the 122nd destination in IndiGo's extensive 6E network.
- The addition enhances connectivity within Sri Lanka, providing direct access to the northern regions of the country.

This new route reinforces the cultural and economic ties between India and Sri Lanka, enhancing commerce, infrastructure, and air connectivity. Bookings for the new flights will open on August 1, 2024. India remains a major source of international tourists for Sri Lanka. In June 2024, Indian visitors accounted for 25.2% of all arrivals to Sri Lanka, up from 26.7% the previous year. With growing interest in Jaffna, IndiGo's new service will improve regional access and complement its existing flights to Colombo, providing travelers with more options in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales at IndiGo,

commented, "We are excited to add Jaffna to our network, enhancing trade and tourism between India and Sri Lanka. This new route will complement our 30 weekly flights to Colombo, significantly reducing travel time and offering more accessible options for travelers. We are committed to expanding our connectivity and providing superior travel experiences."

The demand for the Chennai-Jaffna route is strong, with over 21,000 passengers flying it in just nine months last year. This new service is poised to boost tourism and provide vital connections.

Jaffna, located in Sri Lanka's northern province, is renowned for its rich Tamil heritage, historic landmarks, and vibrant culture. Highlights include the Jaffna Fort and the Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil temple, offering visitors a deep dive into the region's heritage and traditions.



2024 Summer Season: Emirates Unveils Top Five Travel Destinations for Koreans

s the summer vacation season reaches its peak, Emirates, one of the world's largest international airline, has highlighted the top five summer travel destinations that are trending among Korean travelers: Zurich, Barcelona, Rome, Venice, and Prague. With its extensive global network and world-class services, Emirates remains a top choice for Korean passengers eager to explore new destinations. Last summer alone, the airline transported over 35,000 passengers between Incheon and Dubai, and beyond.

Zurich, Switzerland

Zurich combines metropolitan sophistication with stunning natural beauty. Visitors can explore the charming Old Town, enjoy a scenic Lake Zurich cruise, or shop along Bahnhofstrasse, one of the world's most exclusive shopping streets. For those seeking adventure, the city offers easy access to alpine destinations like Mt. Titlis and Jungfraujoch, providing a refreshing escape from the summer heat. Emirates operates double daily flights between Dubai and Zurich using both A380 and Boeing 777 aircraft.

Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona is vibrant and lively in the

summer. Visitors can relax on Barceloneta Beach, known for its surf-friendly waves and beachfront dining. The city's nightlife comes alive at Chiringuitos, with live music and a festive atmosphere. Central Barcelona's Plaça de Catalunya is a historic square connecting the Gothic Quarter with the modern Eixample, ideal for exploration. Emirates offers double daily flights between Dubai and Barcelona with A380 and Boeing 777 aircraft.

Rome, Italy

Rome thrives under the summer sun, perfect for sightseeing and enjoying its lively piazzas. Early risers can visit the Colosseum and Roman Forum before the crowds or take a leisurely stroll along the Tiber River. For a refreshing break, nearby beaches or gelato at local cafes provide respite from the heat. Emirates operates double daily A380 flights between Dubai and Rome and offers train connections to/from Rome Roma Termini Rail Station (XRJ) in collaboration with Trenitalia.

Venice, Italy

Venice, often called 'The Floating City,' is an idyllic summer destination. Visitors can admire historic landmarks such as Basilica Di San Marco, the Doge's Palace, and the Rialto Bridge while enjoying gondola rides through its picturesque canals. The city's museums and art galleries add to its cultural allure. Emirates operates a daily Boeing 777 service between Dubai and Venice, with train connections to/from Venice Venezia S. Lucia Rail Station (XVQ) in partnership with Trenitalia.

Prague, Czech Republic

Known for its beautiful architecture, scenic views, and delicious cuisine, Prague is a popular choice for Korean travelers seeking an affordable European getaway. The mild summer weather is perfect for exploring landmarks like Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, and Old Town Square. Evenings can be spent enjoying world-famous Czech beer at local bars. Emirates provides a daily Boeing 777 service between Dubai and Prague, with additional connectivity through flydubai.

Travellers extending their stay in Dubai during their stopover can benefit from My Emirates Pass, offering exclusive discounts on top attractions. From thrilling water parks to breathtaking views from the Burj Khalifa's observation deck, this pass provides valuable savings on Dubai's mustsee experiences. Present your physical or digital boarding pass along with a valid ID at participating venues to enjoy these special offers.

AVIATION

Etihad Airways Reinforces Commitment to India with Launch of New Hindi Website

- Etihad Airways is the first foreign airline and the first from the GCC to launch a Hindi-language website.
- The new Hindi site enhances Etihad's services for Hindi-speaking travelers, reinforcing its commitment to the Indian market.
- By improving accessibility, the Hindi website aims to provide a more seamless travel experience for Indian passengers. Etihad Airways, the UAE's national

carrier, has made a notable advancement





in catering to Indian travelers by becoming the first international airline to offer a Hindi-language website. This initiative highlights Etihad's dedication to enhancing the travel experience for its Indian travelers.

The new Hindi website, provides a full range of services including flight bookings, check-in procedures, and customer support in Hindi. This development aims to streamline travel planning for Hindi-speaking passengers and strengthen Etihad's presence in India. The platform is designed to offer a userfriendly experience, making it easier for travelers to plan, book, and manage their flights.

Akhil Anumolu, Senior Vice President of e-Commerce, Digital, Marketing & Loyalty at Etihad Airways, said, "Etihad is committed to culturally connecting with our valued passengers. Serving 11 Indian cities, this initiative demonstrates our dedication to meeting the needs of our Indian customers. Offering our services in Hindi will create a more inclusive and accessible experience, allowing customers to access information in their preferred language. As we approach our 20th anniversary of flying to India, we are excited to announce new partnerships and initiatives in the region for the latter half of 2024."

Etihad is known for its world-class service and innovative approach. The launch of the Hindi website underscores the airline's commitment to enhancing customer experience, aligning with global preferences, and expanding its services to meet the needs of its diverse audience.

The Hindi website enables travelers to easily navigate Etihad's growing network and frequent connections through Abu Dhabi. This move reaffirms Etihad's commitment to the Indian market, with 176 weekly flights to 11 cities and connections to over 70 destinations worldwide. The recent expansion includes new routes to Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, and Jaipur.

India Market Innovations:

Special Meals: Etihad offers a variety of special meals to accommodate diverse dietary needs, including vegetarian, Jain, and Hindu options.

In-Flight Entertainment: A wide selection of Bollywood movies, Indian TV shows, and music is available, along with Indian newspapers and magazines.

Multilingual Staff: Many Etihad staff members are fluent in languages such as Hindi, Tamil, and Punjabi, ensuring effective communication and comfort for Indian travelers.

US Preclearance Advantage: Passengers traveling from India to the US can benefit from US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) services in Abu Dhabi, expediting their journey.

Premium Products & Services: Investments include a partnership with Armani/Casa for Business Class and a redesigned Economy cabin with sustainable dining. Wi-Fi packages are also available for in-flight connectivity.

Etihad Stopovers: Travelers can enjoy a stopover in Abu Dhabi, providing a chance to explore the city while breaking up long-haul flights.

Etihad Guest: The loyalty program offers benefits like discounted flights, lounge access, and upgrades, fostering brand loyalty among Indian travelers.

Celebrating two decades of service in India, Etihad views the country as a crucial strategic market. Recent collaborations, such as with Katrina Kaif and CSK, highlight their commitment to strengthening and expanding their relationship with India.

JAL and ENEOS Finalize Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Sustainable Aviation Fuel

apan Airlines Co., Ltd. (JAL) and ENEOS Corporation have finalized an agreement to advance the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel SAF) in Japan. This partnership marks ENEOS as the first major Japanese energy company to import SAF and supply it to JAL, which is actively sourcing SAF both domestically and internationally.

The aviation industry is targeting netzero CO2 emissions from international flights by 2050, with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aiming for a 15% reduction in emissions by 2024 compared to 2019 levels. Promoting domestically produced SAF is essential for achieving these goals. This agreement represents a significant step towards establishing a domestic SAF



supply chain in Japan.

JAL and ENEOS will collaborate to increase SAF usage in Japan and support the aviation industry's decarbonization efforts.

JAL's Commitment and Initiatives: Aircraft Efficiency: JAL is updating its fleet to more fuel-efficient aircraft.

SAF Procurement: The airline is

working to source SAF both locally and abroad, with targets to replace 1% of its total fuel with SAF by FY2025 and 10% by FY2030.

Corporate SAF Program: JAL's initiative aims to enhance the recognition of SAF's environmental benefits by certifying CO2 reductions for corporate customers flying with JAL in Japan.

ENEOS's Commitment and Initiatives:

Long-Term Vision: ENEOS is committed to ensuring a stable energy supply and achieving carbon neutrality.

SAF System: The company is developing an integrated SAF system, covering raw material procurement, inhouse production, and sales.

Malaysia Airlines Launches Direct Flights to the Maldives, Expanding Its South Asian Network to 13 Destinations

alaysia Airlines proudly resumed its daily flights from Kuala Lumpur to the Maldives. Flight MH485, operated by a Boeing 737-800, took off from KL International Airport (KUL) at 10:10 a.m., fully booked with 174 passengers. The four-hour and 15-minute journey landed at Velana International Airport (MLE) at 11:25 a.m. local time, greeted with a traditional water salute. The return flight departs MLE at 12:30 p.m. local time.

This new route marks Malaysia Airlines' 13th destination in South Asia, reflecting its commitment to expanding its footprint in key markets. The service reestablishes Malaysia Airlines' role as a major gateway to Asia and beyond, following the suspension of direct flights to the Maldives in 2017.

As part of its growth strategy, Malaysia Airlines is introducing three new destinations this year, including Chiang Mai, Thailand (CNX) from August 15, and Danang, Vietnam (DAD) from September 24, 2024.

Ahmad Luqman Mohd Azmi, Chief Executive Officer of Airlines from MAG, welcomed passengers at KLIA, stating, "We are delighted to resume flights to the Maldives, enhancing our vision of connecting travellers to some of the world's most stunning destinations. This direct service reaffirms Malaysia Airlines' dedication to luxury and cultural richness and strengthens our position in the competitive travel market."

In celebration of the new route, Malaysia Airlines is offering special promotional fares until August 31, 2024. The "The Time for the Maldives" promotion features return fares starting from USD 299 for Economy Class, valid for travel until March 30, 2025. Additional offers include a 10% discount on ancillary bundles, such as value, premium, and the MH Traveller's Trio bundle, which includes a standard seat, 10kg extra baggage, and access to the Malaysia Airlines Golden Lounge at KLIA.

Ibrahim Shareef Mohamed, CEO and Managing Director of Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), expressed enthusiasm for the route's return: "We are thrilled to welcome Malaysia Airlines back to Velana International Airport. This route reinstatement strengthens our regional connectivity and offers exciting opportunities."

Ibrahim Shiuree, CEO and Managing Director of Maldives Marketing & PR Corporation (MMPRC), added: "The resumption of direct flights from Malaysia Airlines is expected to boost arrivals and diversify our tourism base. Such partnerships highlight MMPRC's commitment to enhancing connectivity and accessibility for visitors from Southeast Asia and beyond."



The Textile Industry in India: A Journey of Progress and Transformation

The Indian textile industry has come a long way from its humble beginnings to become a global powerhouse. Its journey of progress is marked by resilience, adaptability, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. As the industry navigates the challenges and capitalizes on emerging opportunities, it is poised to play an even more significant role in India's economic growth and global trade. With continued support from the government, industry stakeholders, and technological advancements, the future of the Indian textile industry looks brighter than ever.

he textile industry in India has a rich and diverse history that dates back to ancient times. Renowned for its exquisite craftsmanship and intricate designs, Indian textiles have always been a symbol of the country's cultural heritage. Over the centuries, the industry has evolved significantly, driven by technological advancements, policy reforms, and growing global demand. Today, it stands as one of the largest contributors to India's economy, playing a crucial role in employment generation and export earnings. This article delves into the progress of the textile industry in India, highlighting key milestones, challenges, and future prospects.

Historical Context and Evolution





India's textile industry has its roots in the Indus Valley Civilization, where evidence of cotton weaving has been found. Over time, Indian textiles gained international fame, particularly during the Mughal era, when exquisite fabrics like muslin, silk, and brocade were highly sought after by traders from Europe and Asia. The advent of the British colonial period marked a significant shift, as the introduction of mechanized textile mills in the 19th century laid the foundation for modern textile manufacturing.

Post-Independence Growth

After gaining independence in





1947, India embarked on a journey of industrialization. The textile sector received considerable attention from policymakers, resulting in the establishment of numerous textile mills and the modernization of existing ones. Key developments during this period include:

•Establishment of Textile Hubs: Cities like Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Coimbatore emerged as major textile hubs, with a concentration of mills producing cotton, silk, and synthetic textiles.

•Handloom and Cottage Industries: The government also focused on promoting handloom and cottage industries to preserve traditional weaving techniques and provide employment in rural areas.

•Policy Initiatives: Various policy measures, such as the Textile Policy of 1985, aimed at boosting production,

improving quality, and enhancing export competitiveness.

Liberalization and Global Integration

The economic liberalization of the 1990s marked a turning point for the Indian textile industry. The removal of trade barriers and the influx of foreign investments paved the way for modernization and global integration. Key developments during this period include:

•Technological Upgradation: The adoption of advanced technologies, such as computerized knitting machines and automated looms, significantly improved productivity and product quality.

•Diversification: Indian textile manufacturers diversified their product





offerings to include high-value textiles like technical textiles, organic cotton, and fashion apparel.

•Export Growth: The opening up of international markets led to a surge in textile exports, with India becoming a key supplier to global retail giants and fashion brands.

Recent Developments and Achievements

In recent years, the Indian textile industry has continued to make remarkable strides,



•Technical Textiles: The demand for technical textiles, used in industries like healthcare, automotive, and construction, is on the rise, offering new growth avenues for manufacturers.

•E-commerce Boom: The proliferation of e-commerce platforms has opened up new channels for textile producers to reach a wider customer base, both domestically and internationally.

Future Outlook

The future of the Indian textile industry looks promising, with several trends and developments expected to shape its trajectory:

driven by supportive government policies, innovative practices, and a strong emphasis on sustainability. Notable achievements include:

•Government Initiatives: Programs like the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme have provided financial incentives and infrastructure support to textile manufacturers.

•Sustainability Efforts: With growing awareness of environmental issues, the industry has adopted sustainable practices, such as organic farming, water-efficient dyeing processes, and recycling of textile waste.

•Digital Transformation: The integration of digital technologies, such as AI, IoT, and blockchain, has revolutionized supply chain management, quality control, and customer engagement in the textile sector.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite its impressive progress, the Indian textile industry faces several challenges that need to be addressed to sustain its growth momentum. Key challenges include:

•Competition: Intense competition from countries like China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam poses a significant threat to India's textile exports.

•Infrastructure Gaps: Inadequate infrastructure, particularly in rural areas,



hampers the smooth functioning of the textile supply chain.

•Skilled Workforce: There is a need for continuous skill development programs to equip workers with the latest technical know-how and industry-specific skills.

On the flip side, there are numerous opportunities that the industry can leverage to strengthen its position globally:

•Rising Domestic Demand: The growing middle class and increasing disposable incomes in India present a huge opportunity for domestic textile consumption.

•Innovation and R&D: Continued investment in research and development will drive innovation, enabling the industry to create high-value, differentiated products.

•Sustainability Focus: Sustainable practices will become more entrenched, with a growing emphasis on circular economy principles and eco-friendly manufacturing processes.

•Global Partnerships: Strengthening global partnerships and participating in trade agreements will enhance market access and boost export competitiveness.

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TECH

Samsung Announces Global Availability of Latest Devices Unveiled at Galaxy Unpacked in Paris

The new Samsung Galaxy Z Fold6, Z Flip6, Watch Ultra, Watch7, Buds3 series and Ring extend the power of Galaxy AI

Samsung Electronics today announced the global availability of Galaxy Z Fold6, Galaxy Z Flip6, Galaxy Watch Ultra, Galaxy Watch7, Galaxy Buds3 series and the much anticipated Galaxy Ring.

"We've seen significant consumer excitement following the unveiling of our latest Galaxy devices in Paris earlier this month," said TM Roh, President and Head of Mobile eXperience Business at Samsung Electronics. "By integrating the power of Galaxy AI into our versatile foldable devices as well as expanding it to our ecosystem portfolio, we are continuing our commitment to putting the potential of AI into the hands of millions around the world."

Galaxy Z Fold6 and Flip6: New and Versatile AI Experiences

The new Galaxy Z Fold6 and Flip6 have opened the next frontier of Galaxy AI. Leveraging their unique form factors that advance communication, productivity and creativity like never before. When it comes to communication, easily understand someone in another language whether just by listening or having a conversation with Interpreter, making the most of the unique dual screen form factor. Reply while on the move with Suggested replies, which recommends tailored responses to messages without even needing to open the device. Stay productive with Composer, which generates emails and social posts based on just a few simple keywords, and Note Assist, which offers a new PDF overlay translation feature, as well as transcription of audio files. Creativity is boosted with Photo Assist, a suite of AI-powered editing tools to create professional-grade content effortlessly. Plus, FlexCam, now supported by Auto Zoom, automatically frames up the perfect selfie all hands-free.



The Galaxy Z Fold6 and Flip6 are the slimmest and lightest, as well as the most durable Z series ever. The display has been upgraded thanks to enhanced layers on the main screen, which not only offer durability, but also visibly improve the crease. Galaxy Z Fold6 offers a new cover screen ratio, which also fits more naturally in the hand, while Galaxy Z Flip6 delivers a flagship-level camera experience, longer battery life and for the first time ever, a vapor chamber to maximize performance on-the-go.

Enhanced Galaxy Ecosystem Powered by Galaxy AI

The newest additions to the Galaxy Watch line-up are central to Samsung's vision for enhancing digital health and everyday wellness through Galaxy AI. Galaxy Watch Ultra and Galaxy Watch7 allow tracking of advanced glycation end products (AGEs)8 for the first time for a better understanding of metabolic health, while a Dual-frequency GPS system9 tracks location more precisely than ever for workouts in any outdoor environment from busy cities to dusty trails.

Galaxy Ring10 is the newest form factor, offering Samsung's powerful sensor technology in the smallest wearable yet. The distinct concave design is stylish and durable with a Titanium Grade 511 finish, built for extended wear and 24/7 health monitoring.12 With sleep being the foundation of wellness, Galaxy Ring is the optimal form factor to offer Samsung's best-in-class sleep analysis13 and powerful sleep AI algorithm, based on all-new sleep metrics for a more detailed analysis and understanding of sleep.

Galaxy Buds3 series offers a sleek new blade design for a modern yet practical style, and with Canal Type for Galaxy Buds3 Pro and Open Type for Buds3, there is a pair to suit everybody regardless of their preference. Ultra High Quality14 Audio delivers superb detail in every sound and with Super-Wideband Call15 feature, phone calls can also be heard in flawless quality even when in noisy environments. Availability

The Galaxy Z Fold6, Galaxy Z Flip6, Galaxy Watch Ultra, Galaxy Watch7, Galaxy Buds3 series and Galaxy Ring will be available globally from July 24, 2024.16

The Galaxy Z Fold6 is available in Silver Shadow, Pink and Navy. Galaxy Z Flip6 also offers Silver Shadow, in addition to Yellow, Blue and Mint colors.

Galaxy Watch Ultra is available in a 47mm size in Titanium Gray, Titanium White and Titanium Silver. Galaxy Watch7 is available in two sizes, 40mm and 44mm. Choose from Green and Cream color options for 40mm and Green and Silver for 44mm.

Galaxy Buds3 series is available in two colors, Silver and White.

Galaxy Ring is available in nine size options to ensure the perfect fit with three color choices — Titanium Black, Titanium Silver and Titanium Gold.



Prime Minister lauds India's progress in electronics exports

he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed immense joy over India's progress in electronics exports. Electronics exports have reached among top 3 position globally. Shri Modi gave this credit to innovative Yuva Shakti. India remains committed to continuing this momentum in the times to come, the Prime Minister further added. Union Minister for Electronics & Information technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw in a X post informed that Bharat's electronics export now among the top 3. He has also shared a news article of Business Standard newspaper stating that driven by a surge in Apple iPhone exports from India, electronics has surged past gems and jewellery to secure the third spot among India's top 10 exports by the end of the April-June quarter (Q1) of 2024-25 (FY25). Responding to the X post of Union Minister, Shri Modi said;

"This is indeed a matter of immense joy. India's prowess in electronics is powered by our innovative Yuva Shakti. It is also a testament to our emphasis on reforms and boosting @makeinindia.

India remains committed to continuing this momentum in the times to come."

Construction of Tata's semiconductor unit in Assam commences; To be set up with an investment of ₹27 thousand crores & generate 15,000 direct & 11-13000 indirect jobs

n a significant step towards creating an end-to-end semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem in India, the function for commencement of construction of Tata's semiconductor unit in Assam unit was held in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma and Chairman of Tata Sons Limited N Chandrasekaran. Later, the Union Minister for Railways, Electronics & Information Technology and Information and Broadcasting, Sh. Ashwini Vaishnav, during his interaction with the media, stated that the Prime Minister of India has always emphasised on Act East policy and a very important milestone is being achieved in Assam with the commencement of construction of this facility. He mentioned that this project was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29th February, 2024.

The programme for development of Semiconductors and Display



Manufacturing Ecosystem in India was notified on 21.12.2021 with a total outlay of ₹76,000 crore. In June, 2023, the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi had approved the proposal of Micron for setting up a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat whose construction is progressing at a rapid pace.

About the semiconductor unit

The Union Minister mentioned that

this unit will be set up with an investment of ₹27 thousand crores and is expected to generate 15 thousand direct and 11-13 thousand indirect jobs. While highlighting the importance of the Semiconductor industry as being a foundational one, he said that employment opportunities in various upstream and downstream industries will be created. The proposed capacity of this unit is 4.83 crore semiconductor chips per day. He also pointed out that this unit will be the site for development of indigenous advanced semiconductor packaging technologies including Wire Bond, flip chip and I-SIP (integrated system in package) technologies and all these three major technologies which will be deployed in this plant are being developed in India. These technologies are extremely critical for key applications such as automotive (especially electric vehicles), communications, network infrastructure and others

NISSAN MOTOR INDIA INTRODUCES THE ALL-NEW 4TH GENERATION PREMIUM URBAN SUV X-TRAIL WITH WORLD'S FIRST PRODUCTION ENGINE WITH VARIABLE COMPRESSION TECHNOLOGY





issan Motor India (NMIPL) today announced the re-launch of its CBU Business with the All-New Nissan X-TRAIL in India, setting a new benchmark for premium urban SUVs in the country.

The 4th generation of the Nissan X-TRAIL is a 'Made in Japan' exclusive for Nissan aficionados. It is designed and delivered for customers seeking a refined driving experience, appreciate Japanese craftsmanship in design and engineering along with high versatility in space utilization. Building upon Nissan's two-decade-strong SUV DNA and legacy, the 4th-generation X-TRAIL is marking the re-start of Nissan's CBU (Completely Built Unit) business in India which is led by a customer first approach product strategy.

The Nissan X-TRAIL, currently available in over 150 markets, has achieved a remarkable milestone with over 7.8 million X-TRAILs sold worldwide since its inception.

Frank Torres, Divisional Vice President AMIEO Region Business Transformation & President Nissan India Operations said, "India is one of the most promising markets for Nissan and thus, it holds a special place in Nissan's global strategy. The official introduction of the All-New 4th Generation Nissan X-TRAIL marks the relaunch of the CBU business for the brand in India. This launch is a significant milestone in line with our new brand strategy for India and gives India access to the best of Nissan's global SUV portfolio for the discerning Indian customer."

Frank added," We are also working towards introducing new

models designed, developed, and manufactured in the country as a part of our commitment to India. In line with our global business plan named the ARC, we are set to introduce three new models into the Indian market during the ARC period 2024 to 2026 to optimize the potential in the country, on top of the X-TRAIL and the successful Magnite delivered for India and the world. This is part of our transformation to position Nissan in India as a significant player that has the pulse of our dynamic customers and stays ahead in catering to their ever-evolving needs."

Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, commented, "Our transformational journey in India for the brand has truly begun & the strategy is based on three key pillars - expanding CBU operations, strengthening our domestic market presence and expanding our reach in the export markets, making India operations future ready. The launch of the All-New 4th Generation Nissan X-TRAIL marks the beginning of our product offensive in India. The relaunch of our CBU business will provide flagship & aspirational Nissan SUVs like the X-TRAIL that embodies sophistication, versatility, and a penchant for premium driving experience while adding to the resurgence of the Nissan brand in India."

Saurabh added, "The X-TRAIL highlights our focus on bringing the best of Nissan's global technologies and offerings to India, including the world's first VC Turbo engine and XTRONIC CVT technology. This model sets a new benchmark for premium SUVs in India, symbolizing the best of Nissan technologies. I believe this capable, exciting and All-New product offering will give a lot of confidence to our prospective customers who have been looking forward to aspirational global products and technologies from Nissan in India."

World's First Production Engine with Variable Compression technology launched in India

The All-New X-TRAIL is equipped with a 1.5L Petrol Variable Compression-Turbo mated to Nissan's ALiS Mild Hybrid 2WD engine mated with 3rd Gen XTRONIC CVT powertrain that produces 163ps and 300Nm of torque. This engine, the first of its kind globally, is a patented technology that offers power & fuel efficiency on demand.

This patented VC-Turbo engine varies compression ratio from 8:1 to 14:1 on demand to deliver right balance of performance and fuel economy. In driving scenarios with relaxed driving and light acceleration, the engine switches to high compression ratio for optimised fuel efficiency, while in situations where more performance is needed, the compression ratio is adjusted to a low level seamlessly. This adaptability ensures that this engine delivers finest level of NVH than conventional ICE engines.

XTRONIC stepped Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT)

The new 3rd generation XTRONIC CVT transmission offers better fuel economy and acceleration thanks to improvements including a twin oil pump system with new electrical oil pump. The latest development in continuously variable transmissions (CVT), D-Step Logic Control is computer software that uses dynamic inputs like vehicle speed, accelerator pedal position and application speed to determine the ideal gear ratio needed to provide smooth, constant acceleration.

For drivers, it feels very much like the automatic transmissions they are familiar with. D-step shift logic can hold a constant gear ratio like a conventional step-gear automatic transmission but adds the flexibility and smoothness of a CVT.

ALiS Mild Hybrid Technology debuts in India

The 12V ALiS (Advanced Lithiumion battery System) mild hybrid system available on new X-TRAIL provides torque assist, extended idle stop, quick restart and coasting stop, with improvements to both fuel economy and CO2 output. When decelerating, energy is recovered through regeneration and stored in the Lithium-ion battery. This charged energy is then supplied during Idling Stop, Coasting Stop and Torque Assist.

When accelerating (between 20kph and 110kph), the energy in the Lithium-ion battery allows the motor to assist with an additional +6Nm torque for up to 20 seconds. This helps reduce the torque effort on the engine and improves fuel economy.

Modern, Muscular Styling

Both the exterior and interior of the new X-TRAIL reflect the spirit of the vehicle – versatile and adventurous. The exterior is refined and highlighted by signature Nissan design elements such as the floating roof and V-motion grille. The frontal aspect is framed by striking headlights that appear moulded within the bodywork of the front bumper, with combined daytime running lights and



indicators nestled along the shut-line of the hood.

From the side, the muscular wheel arches at the front and rear give the X-TRAIL presence on the road. The new X-TRAIL comes with the largest in segment R20 diamond-cut alloy wheels. These larger diameter wheels fill the arches and further contribute to the robustness of the car on the road.

The shape of the C-pillar is reminiscent of a dolphin fin, bringing tension to the rear where the wrap-around lights complete the rear three-quarter aspect including a raindrop effect design. From behind, a taught horizontal line sits just above and below where the number plate is mounted, while split rear lights ensure a wide aperture for the trunk.

Key aerodynamic features include "3D" tyre deflectors in the lower front fascia, an active grille shutter to control air flow into the engine compartment, special A-pillar shaping, underbody covers to manage air flow under the vehicle and a unique 'air curtain' that precisely directs air flow from the front to the sides of the X-TRAIL.

Dynamic, Secure and Enjoyable Driving Experience

The new X-TRAIL offers a rewarding driving experience – building on its reputation as a refined and comfortable drive, but nevertheless, enjoyable when the road turns twisty. Thanks to the CMF-C platform, the new X-TRAIL has an updated Macpherson strut set-up at the front. Rear suspension is an advanced multi-link set-up.

Premium Interior Ambience

The cabin of the new Nissan X-TRAIL sets a new segment standard for elevated ambience, distinctive design and enhanced usability.

Extensive attention has been paid to the ergonomic and tactile quality of the switch gear and buttons to give them a high-quality feel. Customer research has clearly shown customers' preference for easy-to-use core functions, so the X-TRAIL has simple, intuitive heating/air-conditioning controls, as well as buttons that govern the central screen functions.



The top level of the floating centre console layout features the e-shifter, the drive mode selector and twin cup holders, as well as the 15w wireless charge pad for smartphones. There is a combined elbow rest for front-seat occupants, which has a 'butterfly' opening, to reveal a cavernous storage space for valuables. The side opening elements allow easy access to the storage area for rear-seat passengers, unlike a rear-hinged lid.

Underneath, the upper tier of the floating console is space utilised to the optimum for storage making it easier to store smaller items and creating optimal space usage because in a family car, you can never have enough storage.

Flexibility & Versatility

Cabin design includes a 7-seat layout, 40/20/40 2nd row seat split option with sliding & recline function, and 50:50 seat fold for 3rd row & Floating Centre Console with butterfly opening.

Thanks to the packaging efficiency of the new X-Trial it is available with a third row of passenger accommodation. Individual seats in third



row effortlessly disappear into the floor are designed to accommodate passengers up to 160cm in height.

The Panoramic Sunroof allows light to flood into the cabin, further enhancing the spacious and relaxing feel of the interior.

When the two rear seats are not in use, the resulting trunk space puts the X-TRAIL among the top-runners in its category for luggage space with a total capacity of 585 litres when 3rd row is folded, thanks to a best-in-class floor length and also width between wheelhouses. The improvements in the utility of the luggage area make luggage loading easier and storing small items more convenient.

Safer & Efficient CMF-C platform

The new X-TRAIL is based on the Alliance CMF-C platform, which represents a state-of-the-art automotive structure and technology architecture.

In terms of construction, the body in white makes use of more lightweight material, as well as advanced stamping and welding techniques to increase strength but to also reduce weight. For the first time, the rear boot door on the X-TRAIL is now made of a composite material. The front and rear doors, front fenders, and hood are all now made of aluminium. This contributes to refinement, ride comfort and driving response typically found in a higher segment, plus exceptional safety in the event of an accident – as well as adding benefits to the car's overall efficiency.

Other Safety features include 7 Airbags, Around View Monitor

(AVM) with Moving object detection (MOD), Brake Limited Slip Differential (BLSD), Electronic Stability controls (ESC), Traction Control System (TCS), Hill-start Assist (HSA), ABS with EBD, Front & Rear Parking Sensors, and all 4 Wheel Disc Brakes.

Practical & Advanced Tech

The X-TRAIL embodies the essence of Japanese Premium Design & Craftsmanship, showcasing strong front fascia with slimmer, sharper front headlamp design thanks to the use of LED technology. On the rear lights, there's also graduated `raindrop' grain optics which create a 3D lighting effect and give a futuristic impression.

At the heart of the X-TRAIL's technology suite is a high-definition, fully electronic 31.2cm TFT multi-information screen that offers a choice of configurable layouts to display vehicle information, all controlled from a new tactile dial switch on the steering wheel. A traditional "Kiriko" cut glass texture is also added to the TFT's digital background – a nod to Nissan's Japanese DNA and Design Philosophy.

X-TRAIL also features a 20.3cm HD touch screen with Android Auto & Apple CarPlay connectivity option, Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection, wireless charger.

The inclusion of E-shifter, Electronic Parking Brake, Auto Hold, Drive Modes, Paddle Shifter, Dual Zone AC, Cruise Control, and Auto Fold ORVM (Outside Rear-View Mirrors), ensures a comfortable journey.

• X-TRAIL, a global icon, with over 7.8 Million units sold over 4 Generations worldwide is now available in India for Nissan aficionados & petrol-heads

• 4th Generation Nissan X-TRAIL now in India, has been in the Top 5 bestselling SUVs globally in 2023

• The Made in Japan 4th Generation Nissan X-TRAIL is equipped with the World's 1st production Variable Compression - Turbo engine

• Nissan is a forerunner in Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) technology, Nissan X-TRAIL is now equipped with its 3rd generation XTRONIC CVT with D-Step Logic Control & Paddle Shifters providing seamless shifting and stronger acceleration

• Nissan X-TRAIL is also equipped with state-of-the-art ALiS 12V Mild Hybrid technology giving benefit of Torque Assist, Extended Idle-stop, Quick Restart & improved Fuel Economy

• Reflecting Nissan's true SUV DNA, X-TRAIL embodies segmentfirst features such as 31.2cm High resolution Advanced Driver Display, R20 Diamond Cut Alloy Wheels

• X-TRAIL has a state-of-the-art automotive structure complimented by robust safety shield with active & passive safety features such as 7 Airbags, Around View Monitor (AVM) with Moving Object Detection (MOD), Brake Limited Slip Differential (BLSD)

• The X-TRAIL delivers unmatched Versatility, Roominess & Comfort with an extremely flexible & adaptable 7-seater layout in multiple configurations, and best in segment 85-degree Rear door opening for easy ingress/egress into 2nd and 3rd row seats

• Bookings for the X-TRAIL to open on 26 July for an amount of INR 1 lakh, deliveries to begin in August 2024

• It is available in 3 colours: Diamond Black, Pearl White, Champagne Silver.

AUTOMOBILE

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Reopens Booking for Innova Hycross ZX & ZX (O) Grades

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the re-opening of bookings for the Innova Hycross ZX & ZX (O) models, effective 1st August 2024. Since its launch (Nov 2022), the Innova Hycross has received overwhelming customer response, appreciated for its proportions & poise of an SUV with the spaciousness of an MPV. The versatile Innova Hycross, available in both self-charging strong hybrid electric variant [SHEV] as well as gasoline variant, is celebrated for its glamor quotient, advanced technology, comfort, safety features and a thrill to drive.



wing to high demand situation, the bookings for the top end grades were put on hold temporarily. During this period, bookings for other grades of the Innova Hycross, both hybrid and gasoline, continued unabated. With the streamlining and enhanced supply, the waiting period has been reduced & the bookings of Innova Hycross top end grades has commenced.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Sabari Manohar – Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business - Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We are thrilled to announce the re-opening of booking for top-end grades of the Innova Hycross, ZX and ZX (O), effective August 1st, 2024. This reflects our commitment to provide access to our varied product choices to cater to the customer desires. The Innova Hycross has become a highly sought-after model, appreciated for its unmatched comfort and convenience. With its advanced technology, strong hybrid electric system, and robust design, the Innova Hycross has set new benchmarks in the market. We are truly humbled by the strong acceptance and confidence entrusted by our customers on this product.

We deeply appreciate the patience of our valued customers during the temporary halt period and regret any inconvenience. We are confident that the re-opening of the bookings of the Innova Hycross top-end grades will further enrich our customers' driving experiences and fulfil their mobility aspirations."

Based on Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), the Innova Hycross celebrates Toyota's globally recognized Quality, Durability and Reliability and reflects the brand legacy. It is powered by a 5th Generation Self-Charging Strong Hybrid Electric System, featuring a TNGA 2.0-litre 4-cylinder gasoline engine and a monocoque frame with an e-drive sequential shift, delivering a maximum power output of 137 kW (186 PS). This provides rapid acceleration and best-in-segment fuel economy that makes the Innova HyCross a wise choice for a greener tomorrow.

Designed for family needs, the featureladen Innova Hycross is a vehicle for every occasion, offering glamor, toughness, comfort, safety, and advanced technology. Drawing inspiration from Toyota's rich global SUV heritage, the Innova Hycross boasts a muscular and tough design with ample space, providing flexible and comfortable seating for all. This versatile vehicle is perfect for families wanting a car that can handle rough roads while delivering a seamless, fatigue-free drive.

AUTOMOBILE



#ShapedForYou: Tata Motors Redefines the Mid-SUV Category with India's First SUV Coupé – Introducing the Tata Curvv

Key highlights of the Curvv:

- India's first SUV Coupé brings together premium design, enhanced practicality in the SUV category
- Will be available in multiple powertrains – petrol, diesel and electric, to serve every customer preference
- Offers spirited performance with uncompromised safety, class leading space and comfort, futuristic technologies, several segment first features, advanced infotainment and rich connectivity

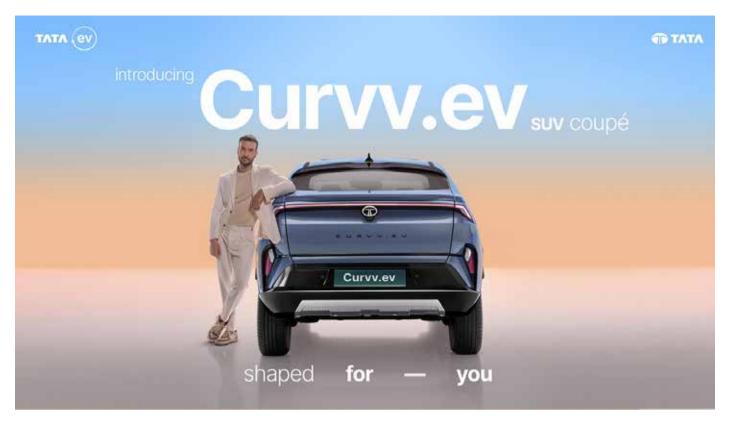
Defining a new era in SUV design, Tata Motors, India's leading automotive manufacturer, unveiled the Tata Curvv ICE and EV. Born of powerful philosophy, form and function, the Curvv is India's first SUV Coupé. Exhibiting the new-age SUV typology, the Curvv artfully blends the toughness and practicality of an SUV with the elegance and sporty silhouette of a coupé. Launching on 7th August, the allnew Curvv will follow Tata Motors' strong multi-powertrain strategy and will be first available in its EV version which will soon be followed by its ICE counterpart.

Commenting on the unveil, Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "Tata Motors has pioneered the Indian SUV arena.



What's more is that we have repeatedly disrupted the category though innovative designs that deliver great road presence as well as enhanced functionality. The original Sierra, Safari, Nexon, Punch and Harrier are testament to this design led market leadership in SUVs. Taking this legacy forward and to further strengthen our SUV portfolio, we have once again broken the clutter in the effervescent and aspirational mid SUV category by introducing the Tata Curvy - India's first SUV Coupe – a disruptive design which democratizes the Coupe body style in the premium categories, providing best in segment performance and never before seen practicality. Further, Curvv is at the forefront of our multi powertrain strategy, with options across Petrol, Diesel and Electric powertrains. With the Curvv we will address a wide variety of needs of the mid SUV customers, providing them with a fresh and delightfully designed product

AUTOMOBILE



complimented by premium performance."

The Curvy is a perfect blend of stunning design that captivates, practicality that empowers, and performance that exhilarates. The Curvv's SUV coupé body style, in contrast to the conventional boxy design that is common in the mid-SUV market, carries over the strong aerodynamic theme demonstrated in the concept show car, highlighting its strong character to the front and carrying it boldly through the vehicle. The raised ride height, tough cladding, and dynamic proportions contribute to its appeal. The Curvv's sharply sloping roofline allows it to efficiently slice through wind resistance, while its large wheels, high approach and departure angle, and increased ground clearance give it a planted and balanced stance. The SUV coupé will debut in two new color shades: Virtual Sunrise in the Curvv.ev and Gold Essence in the Curvy ICE.

Practically designed for the Indian family that loves going out for long drives, the Curvv with its SUV coupé design has a modern and uncluttered interiors that combine the functionalities of an SUV with its impressively spacious cabin and does not sacrifice storage as imagined in a coupé body



style. The emphasis on premium appeal is apparent in its integration of best-in-class technologies in the cabin and a bold yet smart selection of colors, materials, and finishes. The panoramic glass roof allows natural light to flood into the cabin, giving the occupants a sense of space and freedom. The boot space has also been reconfigured to meet customer needs, offering increased and accessible storage space.

The Curvv offers powerful engine options in petrol and diesel, as well as electric variants with best-in-class long driving range. Combined with its body style, which provides agility and excellent handling, it promises a unique and sporty driving experience for the customer. Packed with advanced infotainment, large screens, and connected car technology, the Curvv boasts of several smart features unheard of in this segment and usually found in higher-segment vehicles. Furthermore, it continues Tata Motors' legacy of safety by being engineered to meet the strictest safety norms with a host of active and passive safety features.



Chennai Super Kings Launch SUPER KINGS ACADEMY in Sydney, Marking Major Milestone in Cricket Development

n a landmark initiative poised to reshape the landscape of cricket development, the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has inaugurated the Super Kings Academy in Sydney. This strategic expansion signals a new chapter for one of the most celebrated franchises in the Indian Premier League (IPL), with a mission to nurture talent and build international cricket bridges.

Global Ambitions Realized

Nestled in Sydney's vibrant sports hub, the Super Kings Academy signifies CSK's ambitious leap onto the global stage. This cutting-edge facility is a testament to the franchise's dedication to not only excelling in the IPL but also elevating the sport on an international scale. With its world-class infrastructure and training programs, the academy is set to become a crucial player in developing cricketing talent from across the globe.

State-of-the-Art Training Hub

The academy boasts an array of advanced amenities, including high-tech batting and bowling simulators, sophisticated video analytic tools, and comprehensive fitness and rehabilitation areas. Designed to deliver an all-encompassing training experience, the facility will focus on honing technical skills, strategic insight, and physical conditioning. It aims to bridge the gap between aspiring cricketers and professional levels, providing a structured pathway for progression.

The coaching team at the academy features a roster of seasoned international cricketers and esteemed coaches, many of whom have been integral to CSK's success. This fusion of expertise promises top-tier training and invaluable mentorship, exposing





players to the latest in cricketing techniques and strategies.

A Global Talent Hub

The opening of the Super Kings Academy aligns with CSK's broader vision of engaging with cricketing communities far beyond India. Establishing a base in Australia, a nation renowned for its cricketing prowess, allows CSK to tap into a rich vein of talent and knowledge. The academy is set to cater not only to Australian players but also to cricketers from around the world, offering them a chance to train under some of the sport's leading experts.

Transformative Impact on Cricket

The introduction of the Super Kings Academy is poised to make a significant impact on cricket development in the region. By providing access to top-tier training resources and facilities, the academy is expected to be a catalyst for emerging talent, setting the stage for future cricketing stars. Additionally, the academy's engagement with local communities and schools aims to inspire a new generation of cricket enthusiasts and players.

A Vision for Tomorrow

CSK's establishment of the academy reflects a forward-thinking vision for the future of cricket. Known for its dominance and strong fan base in the IPL, the franchise is now extending its influence to foster global cricketing talent. The Super Kings Academy is a crucial step in this evolution, aimed at creating a lasting legacy that contributes to the sport's international growth.

Celebrating a Milestone

The launch event for the Super Kings Academy was a celebration of the franchise's commitment to cricket excellence. Attended by cricketing legends, local dignitaries, and key figures from CSK, the ceremony highlighted the academy's role in shaping the future of the sport. CSK's leadership emphasized the academy's potential to foster talent and enhance the global appeal of cricket. In his remarks, CSK's CEO expressed enthusiasm about the academy's future, stating, "The Super Kings Academy is more than just a facility; it embodies our dedication to developing cricketing talent on a global scale. We look forward to witnessing the impact it will have on aspiring cricketers and the sport as a whole."

Future Prospects

As the Super Kings Academy begins its journey, the global cricket community watches with anticipation. The academy's focus on comprehensive development and international outreach marks a new era for CSK and cricket alike. With its top-tier facilities and elite coaching staff, the academy is set to inspire and cultivate future cricketing stars, further solidifying CSK's legacy as a pioneering force in the sport.

Paris Olympics 2024: A SPECTACLE of SPORT and CULTURE

he Paris Olympics 2024 promised to be more than just a sporting event; it aimed to be a celebration of culture, innovation, and global unity. Set against the backdrop of one of the world's most iconic cities, the Games were poised to showcase not only athletic excellence but also the rich tapestry of French heritage and modern advancements.

A City of Lights Ready to Shine

Paris, renowned for its historic landmarks, artistic heritage, and culinary delights, served as the majestic host for the 33rd Summer Olympiad. From July 26 to August 11, 2024, the city was transformed into a global sports capital, welcoming athletes, fans, and media from around the world. The Paris 2024 organizing committee had promised an Olympics that seamlessly blended tradition with innovation, reflecting the city's unique character and forward-looking spirit.

A New Era in Olympic Venues

The Games utilised a mix of historic and contemporary venues. Iconic sites like the Champ de Mars, beneath the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, hosted the opening and closing ceremonies, creating a breathtaking spectacle. The Stade de France in Saint-Denis was the central hub for athletics and the football finals, while swimming events took place at the newly designed Aquatic Center in the heart of Paris.

Newly developed venues include the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, which housed the gymnastics and judo events, and the Paris La Défense Arena, hosting basketball. The Seine River, a defining feature of the city, also played a role with the triathlon and marathon swimming events taking



place in its waters.

Sustainability and Innovation

Paris 2024 is committed to being one of the most sustainable Olympic Games in history. The organizing committee has set ambitious goals to reduce the carbon footprint of the event. Key initiatives include the use of renewable energy, waste reduction programs, and the development of temporary and legacy-friendly venues. The Games were designed to be a catalyst for positive change, leaving a lasting impact on both the city and the global community.

Incorporating cutting-edge technology, Paris 2024 offered fans an immersive experience through advanced digital platforms. Virtual and augmented reality bring the Games closer to viewers worldwide, allowing them to experience the thrill of the Olympics as if they were there in person.

Cultural Celebrations and Inclusivity

Beyond the athletic events, Paris 2024 highlighted the city's cultural vibrancy. The Games featured a series of cultural festivals, art exhibitions, and music performances that celebrate both French heritage and global diversity. The cultural program ran parallel to the sporting events, offering a rich, multifaceted experience for visitors.



A focus on inclusivity is at the heart of the Games, with efforts to ensure that athletes of all abilities have the opportunity to shine. The Paris Paralympics, scheduled to follow the Olympics, will showcase the incredible achievements of athletes with disabilities and further the commitment to accessibility and diversity.

Global Unity and the Spirit of Competition

The Paris Olympics, not only a showcase of athletic prowess but also a symbol of global unity. In a time of geopolitical challenges and social change, the Games were an opportunity to celebrate common values and foster international camaraderie. Athletes from around the world came together to compete, inspire, and share their stories, embodying the Olympic spirit of peace and understanding.

Looking Ahead

As the countdown to the Paris Olympics 2024 continues, anticipation was building for an event that promises to be as memorable as it is historic. With its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and cultural celebration, Paris set to deliver an Olympics that honors the past while embracing the future. The city's rich heritage, coupled with its forward-looking vision, created an unparalleled experience for athletes and spectators alike.

The Paris Olympics 2024 was not just about winning medals; it was about celebrating the human spirit, fostering global connections, and creating lasting memories. As the world prepares to descend on the City of Lights, one thing is certain: the Games were a spectacular tribute to the power of sport and the enduring allure of Paris.



n a momentous celebration of Indian tennis, two of the country's most iconic players, Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj, have been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. This prestigious recognition, unveiled at a glittering ceremony, marks a significant milestone not only for Paes and Amritraj but also for Indian tennis, underscoring the profound impact they have had on the sport globally.

A Historic Dual Induction

The International Tennis Hall of Fame, located in Newport, Rhode Island, has long been the ultimate accolade for the sport's greatest contributors. The induction of Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj highlights a historic achievement for Indian tennis, celebrating the extraordinary careers and enduring legacy of these two trailblazers.

Leander Paes, renowned for his exceptional prowess in doubles, and Vijay Amritraj, celebrated for his remarkable singles career, both have left an indelible mark on the sport. Their induction into the Hall of Fame is a testament to their skill, dedication, and contributions to tennis.

Leander Paes: The Doubles Dynamo

Leander Paes, whose career has spanned over two decades, is widely recognized for his unparalleled achievements in doubles tennis. With an impressive 18 Grand Slam titles to his name, Paes is renowned for his agility, strategic acumen, and ability to perform under pressure. His collaboration with a diverse array of partners has led to numerous victories, including Olympic bronze medals in 1996 and 2004.

Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj: INDIAN TENNIS ICONS HONORED with Induction into International Tennis Hall of Fame

Paes's journey from the bustling streets of Kolkata to the grand stages of Wimbledon and the US Open is a story of grit and determination. His charismatic presence on the court and his commitment to excellence have made him a global ambassador for the sport.

Vijay Amritraj: The Trailblazer

Vijay Amritraj, whose career flourished in the 1970s and 1980s, is celebrated for his contributions both on and off the court. Known for his elegant playing style and strategic brilliance, Amritraj was a formidable presence in singles tennis. His career highlights include reaching the quarterfinals of Wimbledon and the US Open, as well as leading India to a Davis Cup final.

Beyond his playing days, Amritraj has been a prominent commentator, author, and advocate for tennis, significantly influencing the sport's development in India. His vision and dedication have inspired countless young players and helped elevate Indian tennis on the global stage.

A Moment of Reflection and Celebration

The induction ceremony, attended by tennis luminaries, sports enthusiasts, and dignitaries, was a moment of reflection and celebration. Both Paes and Amritraj were honored for their outstanding achievements and their contributions to the sport's global appeal.

In his acceptance speech, Paes expressed gratitude for the recognition, acknowledging the support of his family, coaches, and teammates. He emphasized the importance of perseverance and passion in achieving one's goals. Amritraj, similarly, reflected on his journey with humility and pride, highlighting the growth of tennis in India and the role of his mentors and supporters in his success.

Impact on Indian Tennis

The induction of Paes and Amritraj into the International Tennis Hall of Fame represents a significant milestone for Indian tennis. It not only celebrates their individual achievements but also reflects the growth and global recognition of Indian tennis. Their success has paved the way for future generations of Indian players, inspiring them to reach for greatness and elevate the sport in their own right.

The impact of Paes and Amritraj extends beyond their playing careers. They have been instrumental in promoting tennis in India, advocating for better infrastructure, and nurturing young talent. Their legacy is a testament to the transformative power of sport and its ability to unite and inspire.

Looking Forward

As the tennis world celebrates the induction of Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj, the future of Indian tennis looks bright. Their achievements serve as a powerful reminder of the potential within the sport and the importance of nurturing and supporting talent.

The Hall of Fame induction of Paes and Amritraj is a momentous occasion for Indian tennis, marking the culmination of extraordinary careers and the beginning of a new chapter in the sport's history. As the global tennis community honors these legends, the story of Indian tennis continues to unfold, promising new triumphs and inspiring future generations of players.



RNI NO. DELEG/2016/66169 | Published on 05-08-2024



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