

NEWSLETTER

(BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON INDIA AND INDIA-ZAMBIA RELATIONS)



HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
LUSAKA

February 2024

BHARAT SANDESH

Issue- 17

Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela



Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Surajkund, Haryana on 2nd February 2024. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the Surajkund International Crafts Mela is a celebration of our cultural diversity. This fair is a celebration of our tradition as well as innovation. It is an effective platform to connect our craftsmen with art lovers. This fair is both an art exhibition and a business centre.

The President said that art and craft cut across borders and build bridges of understanding. Artists and crafts-persons are creative ambassadors of humanity. She stated that Gujarat, the partner state of this year's Mela, has a very rich art tradition. She was happy to note that North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation is the cultural partner at this year's Surajkund International Crafts Mela.

The President appreciated artisans for preserving the artistic heritage of our country. She said that craftsmen and sculptors put life into clay and stone. Painters create pictures through colours that look vibrant. Craftsmen create incredible shapes and forms out of various metals and solid materials like wood. Imaginative weavers create amazing beauty in textiles and garments. Such craftsmen have been both creators and protectors of India's civilization and culture. She was happy that today's artisan brothers and sisters are taking forward the precious heritage of our civilization and culture.

The President was happy to note that Tanzania is the partner nation for this year's Mela. She said that it is a wonderful platform to showcase Tanzanian dance, music, and cuisine, in which we can also glimpse some Indian influence, thanks to the centuries of people-to-people contact between India and the East African coast. She underlined that Tanzania's participation as the partner nation in this Mela highlights India's engagement with the African Union.

A 15 member Zambian cultural troupe, sponsored by the government of India, participated in 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Addresses Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi addressed a program at India's largest and first-of-its-kind mobility exhibition - Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 2nd February 2024. Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 showcases India's capabilities across mobility and automotive value chains and will feature exhibitions, conferences, buyer-seller meets, state sessions, road safety pavilion, and public-centric attractions like go-karting.

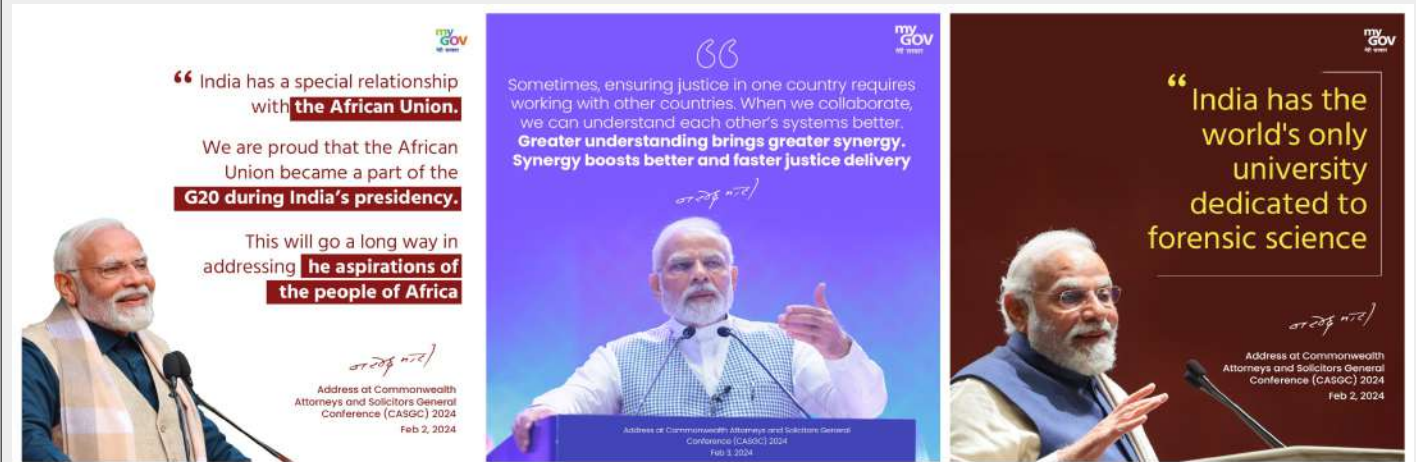
The Prime Minister said that "the speed and scale of our government has changed the very definition of mobility in India". He talked about systematic and timely completion of jobs and highlighted the steps for removing logistics bottlenecks. PM National Gati Shakti Masterplan is promoting integrated transport in the country. GIFT City regulatory framework has been worked out for aircraft and ship leasing. National Logistics policy is addressing the problems of logistics, he said. Dedicated freight corridors are bringing the costs down. Three Railway Economic corridors announced in the Union Budget will also increase the ease of transportation in the country.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the transformative impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in accelerating trade and abolishing check posts at state borders. Furthermore, Prime Minister underscored the role of Fast-Tag technology in saving both fuel and time in the industry. "Fast-Tag technology is facilitating savings in fuel and time in the industry," he affirmed. Citing a recent study, the Prime Minister noted that Fast-Tag technology is contributing to an annual benefit of ₹40,000 crores to the economy. "India is now on the threshold of becoming a global economic powerhouse, with the auto and automotive component industry playing a significant role," Prime Minister stated. Highlighting India's stature in the global automotive market, Prime Minister remarked, "Today, India is the world's third-largest market for passenger vehicles and among the top three countries globally manufacturing commercial vehicles." Moreover, Prime Minister reiterated the government's commitment to supporting various sectors through initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. "For the industry, the government has introduced a Production Linked Incentive Scheme of more than ₹25,000 crores," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the National Electric Mobility Mission is pushing manufacturing of Electric Vehicles. The Government has invested 10 thousand crore rupees for creating demand for electric vehicles. FAME scheme has led to electric buses in the capital as well as in many other cities, he said. Highlighting the immense possibilities in the mobility sector in the next 25 years, Prime Minister urged the industry to transform itself rapidly to fully utilize these possibilities. Addressing the need for technical workforce and trained drivers in the mobility Sector needs, the Prime Minister mentioned more than 15 thousand ITIs in the country providing manpower to this industry today. He also urged the industry leaders to collaborate with ITIs to make the courses more relevant according to the needs of the industry. He also touched upon the scrappage policy by the government where exemption in road tax is provided on new vehicles in exchange for scrapping of old vehicles.

Read more : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2002016>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Inaugurates CLEA - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference 2024



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 3rd February 2024. The theme of the conference was “Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery” and deliberated on important issues pertaining to law and justice like judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice; executive accountability; and revisiting modern-day legal education, among others.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed delight in inaugurating the CLEA - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference which has witnessed the participation of leading legal minds from across the world and welcomed all international guests on behalf of 1.4 billion Indian citizens. “I urge you to witness incredible India to the fullest”, he asserted. Noting the presence of African representatives at the conference, the Prime Minister highlighted India’s special relationship with the African Union and expressed pride that the group became a part of G20 during India’s presidency. He said that it will go a long way in addressing the aspirations of the people of Africa.

Throwing light on the radical changes in the nature and scope of crime in recent times, Prime Minister pointed out the vast networks created by criminals across countries and their usage of the latest technology both in funding and operations. He also drew attention to the fact that economic crimes in one region are being used to fund activities in other regions, and the challenges of the rise of cryptocurrency and cyber threats. Stressing that the issues of the 21st century cannot be tackled with a 20th-century approach, the Prime Minister underscored the need to rethink, re-imagine and reform including modernizing legal systems, making the system more flexible and adaptable.

The Prime Minister highlighted that reform cannot take place without making the justice system more citizen-centric as ease of justice is the pillar of justice delivery. Recalling his time as the chief minister of Gujarat, he said that setting up evening courts enabled masses to attend hearings after their work hours – a step which gave justice but also saved time and money, benefitting hundreds of people. Explaining the system of Lok Adalats or ‘people’s court’, the Prime Minister said that it provides a settlement mechanism for small cases related to public utility services and is a pre-litigation service where thousands of cases are resolved while ensuring ease of justice delivery. He suggested carrying out discussions on such initiatives that can add great value to the world. Concluding the address, the Prime Minister asserted that every challenge in justice delivery can be addressed if the one shared value of passion for justice is shared among nations. “May this conference strengthen this spirit. Let us build a world where everyone has access to timely justice and none is left behind”, Prime Minister concluded.

Mr. Mulilo Kabesha, Attorney General of the Republic of Zambia participated in the conference.

Read more : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2002158>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Inaugurates India Energy Week 2024



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated India Energy Week 2024 in Goa on 6th February 2024. India Energy Week 2024 is India's largest and only all-encompassing energy exhibition and conference, bringing together the entire energy value chain to catalyze India's energy transition goals. The Prime Minister also held a round-table with Global oil & gas CEOs and experts.

The Prime Minister noted that India is the world's third largest energy, oil and LPG consumer. Furthermore, he said India is the fourth largest LNG importer and refiner along with the fourth largest automobile market. He also underlined rising demand of EV in the country. He also talked about the estimates of doubling of the nation's energy demand by 2045. The Prime Minister elaborated India's plan to meet this growing demand. Highlighting the efforts to ensure affordable fuel, the Prime Minister said that despite adverse global factors, India is among the few nations where petrol prices have come down and 100 per cent electricity coverage was achieved by electrifying crores of houses. "India is not just meeting its needs but is also determining the global direction", the Prime Minister added.

Outlining the government's commitment to transforming rural economies through the Waste to Wealth Management model, the Prime Minister highlighted the government's efforts towards sustainable development, Prime Minister announced "we are working towards the installation of 5000 Compressed Biogas Plants in India." Addressing global environmental concerns, Prime Minister remarked, "despite being home to 17% of the world's population, India's Carbon Emission Share is only 4%." He added, "We are committed to further improving our Energy Mix by focusing on the development of environmentally sensitive energy sources." The Prime Minister reiterated India's goal to achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2070. Prime Minister noted that the launch of a major mission aimed at installing Solar Rooftop Panels in one crore homes across India, will not only make one crore families self-reliant in the energy sector but also establish mechanisms to deliver excess electricity generated directly to the grid. Prime Minister emphasized the transformative impact of these initiatives. "There is a great potential for investment in the entire Solar Value Chain", he added.

Touching upon India's stride in the green hydrogen sector, the Prime Minister highlighted the National Green Hydrogen Mission which will pave the way for India becoming a center of hydrogen production and export. He expressed confidence that India's green energy sector can make both investors and industries a sure shot winner. The India Energy Week event reflects India's commitment to global cooperation in the energy sector. Prime Minister remarked, "The India Energy Week event is not just India's event but a reflection of 'India with the world and India for the world' sentiment." He encouraged collaboration and knowledge sharing in sustainable energy development, stating, "Let us learn from each other, collaborate on cutting-edge technologies, and explore avenues for sustainable energy development." In conclusion, Prime Minister expressed optimism about building a prosperous future that prioritizes environmental conservation. He stated, "Together, we can build a future that is prosperous and environmentally sustainable."

Read more : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2002940>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi participates in World Governments Summit 2024



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi on the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Defence Minister, and the Ruler of Dubai, participated in the World Governments Summit in Dubai as Guest of Honour on 14 February 2024. He delivered the special keynote address on the theme of the Summit - "Shaping the Future Governments". Prime Minister had attended the World Governments Summit in 2018, also as Guest of Honour. The Summit this time saw participation of 20 world leaders, including 10 Presidents and 10 Prime Ministers. Governments and delegates from over 120 countries were represented at the global gathering.

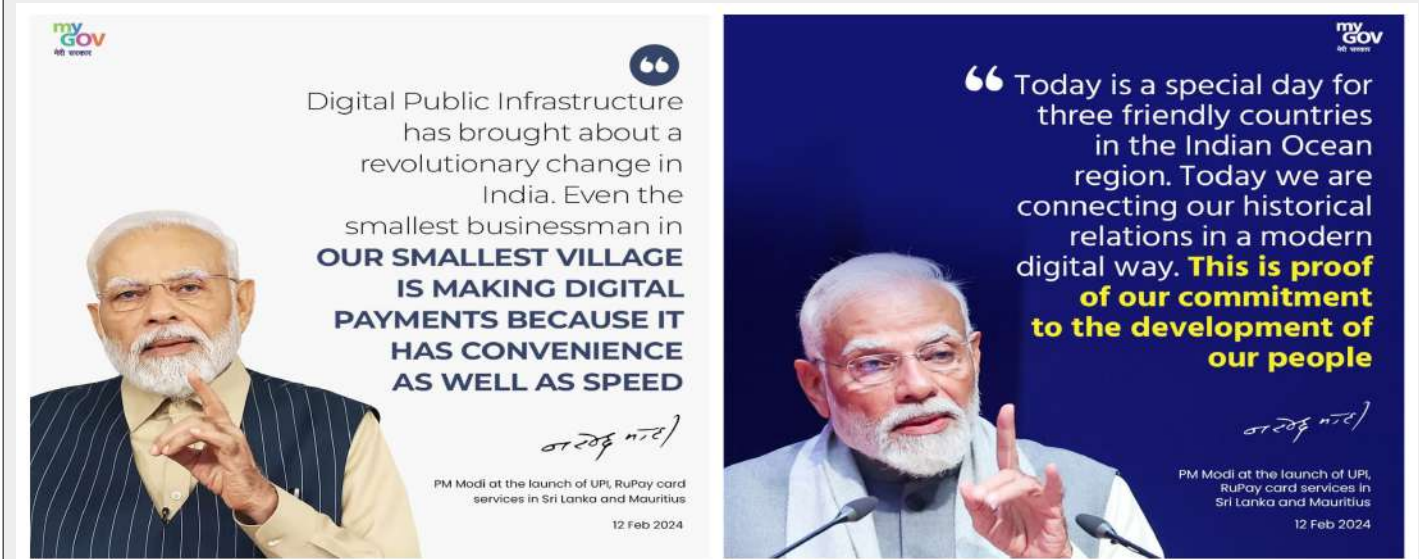
In his address, Prime Minister shared his thoughts on the changing nature of governance. He highlighted India's transformative reforms based on the mantra of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance". Sharing Indian experience on how the country had leveraged digital technology to further welfare, inclusivity and sustainability, he called for a human-centric approach to governance. He also underlined India's focus on people's participation, last-mile-delivery and women-led development to achieve an inclusive society.

Prime Minister emphasised that given the inter-connected nature of the world, governments must collaborate and learn from each other to address future challenges. He highlighted that it was the need of the hour for governance to be Inclusive, Tech-smart, Clean and Transparent, and Green. In this context, he further emphasised that governments must prioritise – Ease of Living, Ease of Justice, Ease of Mobility, Ease of Innovation and Ease of Doing Business in their approach to public service. Elaborating on India's steadfast commitment to Climate Change action, he called for people to join Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) to create a sustainable world.

Prime Minister elaborated on the leadership role played by India as the chair of G-20 last year, on a wide range of issues and challenges facing the world. In this context, he highlighted the efforts made by India to bring development concerns facing the Global South to the centre-stage of global discourse. Calling for reform of multilateral institutions, he pushed for greater voice for the Global South in its decision making. India, he stressed, will continue to contribute to global progress based on its role as a "Vishwa Bandhu".

Read more : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2005945>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi jointly inaugurates UPI services with Mauritius Prime Minister & Sri Lankan President



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi along with the President of Sri Lanka, Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, and also RuPay card services in Mauritius via video conferencing on 12th February 2024.

The Prime Minister underlined that digital public infrastructure has brought about a revolutionary change in India, where the smallest of vendors in the remotest of villages are transacting via UPI and making digital payments. Speaking about the convenience and speed of UPI transactions, the Prime Minister informed that more than 100 billion transactions took place via UPI last year worth Rs 2 lakh crores or 8 trillion Sri Lankan rupees or 1 trillion Mauritius rupees. The Prime Minister also mentioned making last-mile delivery through the GEM Trinity of bank accounts, Aadhar and mobile phones where Rs 34 lakh crores or 400 billion US dollars has been transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. The Prime Minister informed that with CoWin Platform India conducted the world's biggest vaccination programme. "Use of technology is promoting transparency, reducing corruption and increasing inclusivity in society", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister stressed that "India's policy is 'Neighborhood First'. Our maritime vision is SAGAR i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region. India does not see its development separately from its neighbors." Referring to the Vision Document that was adopted during the last visit of the Sri Lankan President, the Prime Minister highlighted the strengthening financial connectivity as its key component. With Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth also, these discussions were conducted as he was the special guest during the G20 Summit.

Background

India has emerged as a leader in Fintech innovation and Digital Public Infrastructure. The Prime Minister has strongly emphasized sharing our development experiences and innovation with partner countries. Given India's robust cultural and people-to-people linkages with Sri Lanka and Mauritius, the launch will benefit a wide cross-section of people through a faster and seamless digital transaction experience and enhance digital connectivity between the countries.

The launch will enable the availability of UPI settlement services for Indian nationals travelling to Sri Lanka and Mauritius as well as for Mauritian nationals travelling to India. The extension of RuPay card services in Mauritius will enable Mauritian banks to issue cards based on RuPay mechanism in Mauritius and facilitate usage of RuPay Card for settlements in India and Mauritius.

Read more : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2005218>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Inaugurates Bharat Tex 2024



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated Bharat Tex 2024, one of the largest-ever global textile events to be organized in the country at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 26th February 2024. The Prime Minister also took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcased on the occasion. Noting the presence of various stakeholders in the textile value chain, the Prime Minister highlighted their intellect towards understanding India's textile sector as well as being aware of the challenges and aspirations. He also noted the presence of weavers and their generational experience from the ground level who are critical to the value chain. Directing the address towards them, the Prime Minister emphasized the resolve of Viksit Bharat and its four main pillars and highlighted that India's textile sector is connected to each one namely the poor, youth, farmers and women. Therefore, the Prime Minister said, the significance of an event like Bharat Tex 2024 only grows.

The Prime Minister highlighted the need for technology and mechanization on one hand and uniqueness and authenticity on the other and said that India has a place where both these demands can co-exist. Noting the products manufactured by India's artisans always have a unique feature to it, the Prime Minister said that demand for such talent increases with demand for unique fashion. Therefore, the Prime Minister said, the government is focussing on skill as well as scale with the number of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) institutes in the country increasing to 19. He said that local weavers and artisans are also being connected to NIFTs with the organization of special training programs about new technology. The Prime Minister also mentioned the Samarth Scheme where more than 2.5 lakh people have received capacity building and skill development training so far. He informed that the majority of women have participated in this scheme where around 1.75 lakh people have already found placement in the industry.

The Prime Minister also dwelled on the dimension of Vocal for Local. He said, "Today a people's movement is going on in the country for 'Vocal for Local and Local to Global'. He said that the government is creating systems like exhibitions and malls for small artisans. Commenting on the impact of positive, stable and far-sighted government policies, Prime Minister said that the valuation of the Indian textiles market has crossed 12 lakh crore rupees from less than 7 lakh crore in 2014. There is a 25 percent increase in yarn, fabric and apparel production. 380 new BIS standards are ensuring quality control in the sector. This has led to doubling of FDI in the sector in the last 10 years, he informed.

Background

Bharat Tex 2024 organized from 26-29 February 2024 by a consortium of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the government, Bharat Tex 2024 is built on the twin pillars of trade and investment, with an overarching focus on sustainability. Over 3,500 exhibitors, over 3,000 buyers from over 100 countries, and more than 40,000 business visitors, besides textiles students, weavers, artisans and textile workers took part in Bharat Tex 2024 along with policymakers and global CEOs.

Read more : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2005218>

Snapshots on India's Economic Growth

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- India's Flagship 'AI for All' Programme
- AI Mission to develop India's own 'sovereign AI'
- Bhashini: AI-led language translation tool
- Govt to provide Compute-as-a-Service to Startups
- 60+ Generative AI startups

CONFERENCE TOURISM

YASHOBHOOMI India's largest convention center
One of world's largest MICE facilities

BHARAT MANDAPAM India's G20 Summit Venue
Fusion of culture with state-of-the-art facilities

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs)

e-AMRIT portal to accelerate e-mobility solutions

India to be 100% electric vehicle nation by 2030

National Electric Mobility Mission Plan launched in 2020

FAME India Initiative
Phases I & II extremely successful
Phase III highly anticipated

ROBOTICS

- Digital India FutureLABS for innovation and R&D
- Made-in-India Robots
 - Daksha: Made by DRDO for the Indian Army
 - Mikra: India's 1st indigenous humanoid robot
 - Manav: India's first 3D-printed humanoid robot
- Vyommitra
Female robot astronaut to fly into space in 2024

FINANCIAL INCLUSION IS NOW REAL !!

400% Rise in Zero Balance Bank Accounts

2005-12: 10.3 Crore
2014-24: 51.6 Crore

Source: Ministry of Finance

India's Success Grabs Global Headlines

THE WORLD BANK

India is Estimated To Grow At 6-7% This Year: World Bank | Newscentre | CNBC TV18
Feb 22, 2024

India to be world's third largest economy by 2027 with GDP at \$5 trillion: Jefferies
Published 20 Dec 2023, 11:42 AM IST

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

India on track to be \$10 trn economy, set for 3rd largest slot: WEF prez
Published 20 Dec 2023, 11:42 AM IST

AI FEVER GRIPS INDIA

INDIA'S AI MARKET TO TOUCH \$ 17 BILLION BY 2027

India has 2nd highest installed talent base working in AI job functions

Also has 3 times more AI skilled talent than other countries

NASSCOM-BCG REPO

INDIA'S DIGITAL STACK HELPS SAVE BIG!

India's DPis have enabled total value creation of **\$31.8 Bn Equivalent to 0.9% of India's GDP**

Economic Value Added/created by:

UPI \$16.2 Billion	AADHAAR \$15.1 Billion	FASTAG \$423 Million
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Source: Digital Public Infrastructure of India
Accelerating India's Digital Inclusion (Nasscom-Arthur D Little report) | Iss: 2022

UNCOUNTABLE STARTUP SUCCESS STORIES

India is home to **111 UNICORNS** market value of **\$350 Billion**

3rd LARGEST Unicorn Hub Globally

Key drivers:
Digital infra, globally low data rates & a rich talent pool

(Photo Courtesy : MyGov Portal, Govt. of India)

Snapshots on India's Economic Growth

GREEN Revolution

Food Grain Production

Leader in millet production

Crop insurance via PM Fasal Bima Yojana

1361 Mandis integrated with E-NAM

Agri exports at all-time high of US\$ 50.2 billion in 2021-22

India is world's largest rice exporting country & 2nd largest wheat-producer



WHITE Revolution


Associated with Milk Production

India: World's largest milk producer

Pashu Aadhaar Largest database of animals in dairy sector

Pashu Kisan Credit Card for animal husbandry farmers

Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Livestock Mission introduced




Yellow Revolution

Production of Edible oil seeds

Aatmanirbhar Oilseeds Abhiyan announced

India to become self-reliant in oilseed production

1500% increase in oilseeds procurement at MSP



BLUE Revolution 2.0

Economic activities related to the sea & the coasts

India now 3rd-largest fish producing country

5 integrated Aqua Parks to be set up

Implementation of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying started in 2019

Highest-ever investment of ₹20,050 crores for 5 years

Separate Department of Fisheries launched



Grey Revolution

Fertilizers & Fertilizer Production

Numerous defunct fertilizer plants revived in the last 10 years

Nano-DAP expanded to all agro-climatic zones

Soil Health Card Scheme for farmers

PM-PRANAM for fertilizer incentives to farmers

GOBARDHAN initiatives to promote R&D in the sector

₹100 crore allocated for promotion of organic fertilizers



PURPLE Revolution

Lavender Cultivation, part of India's "Aroma Mission"

First-time farmers given free lavender saplings

- 3,000+ Startups engaged in Lavender cultivation
- Lavender oil sells for ₹10,000/litre

CSIR labs offer top-notch planting material at no cost



SILVER Fibre Revolution

Cotton Production

Cotton Development Programme in 15 cotton-growing states

Cott-Ally mobile app launched for cotton farmers

341.91 lakh bales of cotton produced in 2022-23

India 2nd-largest cotton producing country



GOLDEN Fibre Revolution

Jute Production

India largest producer of raw jute & jute goods

Govt mandates 100% of foodgrains & 20% of sugar to be packed in jute bags

- 10% purchase through GeM portal

Scholarship Scheme for girl children of jute mills workers



Fast Lane to the Future


National Highways Constructed

97991 KM

144634 KM

FY 15

FY 22



(Photo Courtesy : MyGov Portal, Govt. of India)

Snapshots on India's Economic Growth



The Global Economic Superpower

The Glorious Bharat That Was

India was the world's most prosperous economy

India contributed 33% to the Global GDP

New India

India is now the fastest-growing economy in the world

5th largest economy, sustaining steady 6-7% annual growth

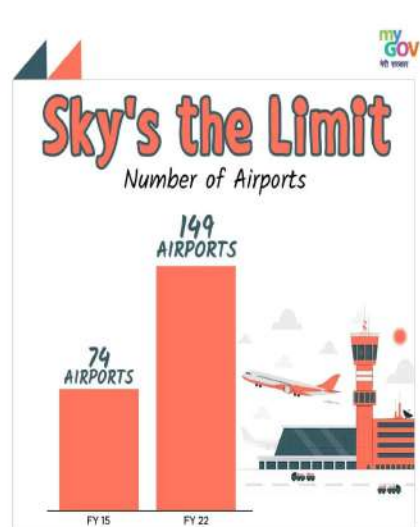
India's global GDP share to reach 18% in 5 years




INDIA'S RAPIDLY-GROWING DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

- Fastest Rollout of 5G in the world
- Highest contribution to GitHub's AI projects
- Highest volume of real-time digital payments
- 2nd largest exporter of ICT services in the world
- 3rd highest number of home-grown unicorns

Source: State of India's Digital Economy Report, CIBER




The Financial Hub of the World

The Glorious Bharat That Was

India controlled one-third of Global Wealth

New India

GIFT City is emerging as the financial capital of the world

UPI launched in 18 countries now

India gets the highest annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion in FY21-22

INR trade pacts signed with multiple nations



INDIA IS THE 3RD-LARGEST DIGITALIZED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

State of India's Digital Economy Report, ICRIER



Reviving India's Rich Maritime History

The Glorious Bharat That Was

India has maritime history since 3000 BC, with Indus Valley Civilization trading with Mesopotamia

Rich legacy includes waterways, a strong navy, & shipbuilding

New India

India expands Indo-Pacific reach, fostering ties with Global South, Pacific Islands

Development of its waterways

Hosted 3rd edition of Global Maritime India Summit 2023

(Photo Courtesy : MyGov Portal, Govt. of India)

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Addresses the 110th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' (25th February 2024)



My dear countrymen, Namaskar. Welcome to the 110th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'. As always, this time too we have received a lot of your suggestions, inputs and comments. And like always, this time as well, selecting topics to be included in the episode, is a challenge. I have received many an input, one better than the other, full of positivity. These comprise due mention of many countrymen who are striving to improve the lives of others by becoming a ray of hope for them. Friends, just after a few days on the 8th of March, we will celebrate 'Women's Day'. This special day is an opportunity to salute the contribution of woman power in the developmental journey of the country. Mahakavi Bharatiyar ji has said that the world will prosper only when women get equal opportunities. Today the woman power of India is touching new heights of progress in every field. Who would have thought till a few years ago that in our country, women living in villages too would fly drones? But today this is becoming possible.

My dear countrymen, today the importance of technology has increased manifold in the lives of all of us. Mobile phones and digital gadgets have become an important part of everyone's life. But can you imagine that with the help of digital gadgets, we are now getting help in creating a balance with wild animals!

A few days later, on the 3rd of March, it is 'World Wildlife Day'. This day is celebrated with the aim of spreading awareness on the conservation of wild animals. This year, Digital Innovation has been kept paramount in the theme of the World Wild Life Day. You will be happy to know that technology is being used extensively for the conservation of wildlife in different parts of our country. During the the last few years, through the efforts of the government, the number of tigers in the country has increased. The number of tigers in the Tiger Reserve of Chandrapur, Maharashtra has risen to more than 250.

Friends, in India harmony with nature has been an integral part of our culture. We have been living with a spirit of coexistence with nature and wildlife for thousands of years. If you ever go to the Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, you will be able to experience it for yourself. Tribal families living in Khatkali village near this Tiger Reserve have converted their houses into home stays with the help of the government. This is becoming a big source of income for them. Prakash Jamkar ji of Korku tribe living in the same village has built a seven-room home stay on his two hectare land. His family makes arrangements for food and drink for the tourists staying at his place. Along with medicinal plants, he has also planted mango and coffee trees around his house. This has not only increased the attraction of tourists; it has also created new employment opportunities for other people.

My dear countrymen, I am happy that just a few days ago the Election Commission has started another campaign – 'Mera Pehla Vote – Desh Ke Liye'. Through this, first time voters have been especially requested to vote in maximum numbers. India is proud of its youth power, full of enthusiasm and energy. The more our youth participate in the electoral process, the more beneficial its results will be for the country. I would also urge first time voters to vote in record numbers. On turning 18, you are getting a chance to elect a member for the 18th Lok Sabha. That means this 18th Lok Sabha will also be a symbol of youth aspiration. That is why, the importance of your vote has risen further. Amidst this hustle and bustle of the general elections, you, the youth, should not only be a part of political activities but also remain aware of the discussions and debates during this period. And do remember – 'My first vote – for the country'.

Read more : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2008770>



High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar paid a courtesy call on Her Honour Mrs. W.K Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation; ways & means to further expand and diversify bilateral cooperation (1 Feb. 2024)



High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar met Hon'ble Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, Minister of Finance and National Planning, Republic of Zambia & discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, possibilities of Indian investment in Zambia and assured India's support to Zambia for its economic development (26 Feb. 2024)

High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar met Ms. Etambuyu A. Gundersen, PS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Republic of Zambia and discussed range of ongoing bilateral issues including celebrations of 60th year of Diplomatic Relations between India and Zambia (27 Feb. 2024)

India sends Humanitarian Assistance to Zambia to help fight against cholera outbreak

Hakainde Hichilema @HHichilema

Thanks to the people of #India for your generous support. 🇮🇳
@indiainzambia @PMOIndia @narendramodi

Dr. S. Jaishankar (Modi Ka Parivar) @DrSJaishankar

India sends Humanitarian Assistance to Zambia in wake of the cholera outbreak.

The aid weighing approx 3.5 tons comprises water purification supplies, chlorine tablets and ORS sachets. Was handed over today by our High Commissioner to the Government of Zambia.

India stands with Zambia at this trying time.



Government of India sent Humanitarian Assistance weighing approx. 3.5 tonnes comprising chlorine tablets and ORS sachets to Zambia to help fight against cholera outbreak. The aid was handed over by High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar to Mr. George Sinyangwe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Republic of Zambia on 17th February 2024. H.E. Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia thanked the people of India for this generous support.

Indian defence delegation visits Zambia



(A three member Indian defence delegation visited Zambia from 19-20 February 2024)

A three member Indian defence delegation visited Zambia from 19-20 February 2024 to discuss a wide range of opportunities to enhance defence cooperation between India and Zambia. Detailed discussions were held in areas like training cooperation & capacity building, defence industrial cooperation etc. The delegation was led by Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Defence, Government of India. Industry representatives from Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), Munitions India Limited (MIL), Bharat Forge and SMPP Pvt. Ltd. also accompanied the delegation as part of defence industry.

The delegation paid courtesy calls on Hon'ble Mr. Ambrose Lwiji Lufuma, Minister of Defence and Hon'ble Mr. Chipoka Mulenga, Minister of Commerce, Trade & Industry, Republic of Zambia. Mr. Ambrose Lwiji Lufuma recalled historic relations between India and Zambia, particularly in defence sector. He also recalled his fruitful meeting with his Indian counterpart Mr. Rajnath Singh on the margins of Aero India Show in February 2023. He acknowledged India's growing support particularly in capacity building of Zambian defence forces and stressed the need of more intense cooperation between the two countries. Zambian side evinced keen interest in augmenting training cooperation, expressing confidence in the growing capabilities of the Indian defence industry. Zambian side also highlighted areas where the Indian defence forces and industry could collaborate with their defence forces under the aegis of the defence MoU signed between India and Zambia in August, 2019. Minister Chipoka Mulenga urged Indian defence industry to set up joint ventures in partnership with Zambian companies for local manufacturing of defence equipment.

High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar highlighted the long-standing relationship between India and Zambia, which have evolved, strengthened and become multifaceted. He mentioned that Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi pledged India's support to the countries of global south at G-20 summit held in New Delhi in September 2023, which would further intensify India's relations with friendly countries like Zambia. He reiterated support of the government of India to enhance and expand cooperation in defence sector between the two countries.

The representatives from Indian defence industry expressed their support to Zambia in their defence requirement. The delegation met Chiefs of Zambia Army and Zambia Air Force and Deputy Commander of Zambia National Service. Zambia Army Commander Lt. Gen. Dennis Sitali Alibuzwi, appreciated India's support in establishment of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Zambia. Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Oscar Msitu Nyoni expressed keen interest in medical courses conducted by the Indian Air Force. Deputy Commander of Zambia National Service Major General Reuben Mwewa sought India's support to enhance productivity in agriculture sector. The delegation visited Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) and expressed India's support in upgradation of curriculum of DSCSC. The delegation also paid tributes to five former Presidents of Republic of Zambia at Presidential Burial Site.

It is worth noting that Indian defence forces have established one of the closest linkages with the armed forces of Zambia in Africa. The linkages date back to the early 20th century with the deployment of a battalion of the Sikh Regiment in the former Northern Rhodesia. (The North Rhodesian regiment subsequently participated in Burma Campaign during the Second World War along with the Indian soldiers). These linkages strengthened soon after Zambia attained independence in 1964. In the early years of Zambia's independence, around 40% of Zambia's armed forces including several of Zambia's defence chiefs underwent training in various Indian defence institutions. Indian Air Force trained the Zambian Air Force in all dimensions of combat and non-combat operations. From 1994 until 2010, India had deputed a Military Advisory Team comprising four officers (reduced to three officers in 2008) to assist Zambia in establishment of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC). The DSCSC has become an important institution of training to senior defence officers of the region and beyond. India has also provided training to Zambian officers at the Centre for UN Peace Keeping Operations in New Delhi and short term training under ITEC programme.

Bilateral relations between India and Zambia have been cordial and have grown steadily over the years. The visit of Indian defence delegation will further strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.

High Commission celebrates ITEC Day- 2023



High Commission celebrated ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) Day 2023 on 21 February 2024 at hotel Taj Pamodzi, Lusaka. Hon'ble Mr. Felix Mutati, Minister for Technology and Science, Republic of Zambia was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. About 70 ITEC alumni, who attended various ITEC courses attended the event. A few prominent members from the Indian business Community were also present during the occasion.

High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar called India and Zambia as natural partners and that India and Zambia will be celebrating 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year. He acknowledged excellent bilateral relations between India and Zambia encompassing areas including Government to Government Development Cooperation, Trade, Commerce & Industry, SME, Agriculture, Health, Education, etc. High Commissioner also spoke about India's G20 Presidency and campaign for full membership of the African Union in the G-20. High Commissioner gave an overview about ITEC programme and highlighted the important role of the ITEC programme (both Civilian and Defence) as a part of India's Development Cooperation Programme, which has helped Zambia immensely in its capacity building. He also mentioned about other modalities like e-ITEC, ITEC-Onsite and ITEC- Executive included in the bouquet of ITEC courses. High Commissioner appealed the government of Zambia for full utilization of ITEC slots offered by India both in civilian and defence sectors. High Commissioner also urged Zambian students to take advantage of Government of India's 'Study in India' programme, ICCR scholarships and 'e-VidyaBharti' (eVBAB) programme which provides fully funded scholarship for online programme 'iLearn' by the Government of India.

Hon'ble Felix Mutati, Minister for Technology and Science eulogized the strong bilateral relationship between India and Zambia. He highly appreciated ITEC scholarships and various development cooperation initiatives of the government of India helping Zambia in capacity building and skill development. Highlighting Human Capital Development at the core of the vision of the Government of Zambia, Hon'ble Minister assured that Government of Zambia will make all efforts to utilize all the scholarships under ITEC programme. Hon'ble Minister acknowledged India's advancement in technological sector and spoke of India's landing on the moon. He sought India's support and cooperation in pursuit of the New Dawn Government's vision for the development of various sectors of the economy under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Republic of Zambia.

A sizeable number of ITEC alumni, who successfully completed their ITEC programmes in the last two to three years attended the event. ITEC alumni shared their rich experiences about ITEC programmes they had undertaken. They highly praised the programme and the ways these have benefitted them in their personal and professional life. During informal exchanges, all the participant ITEC alumni expressed similar views of deriving benefit from practical knowledge and experiences imparted during their training in India under ITEC programme. Many ITEC alumni requested to consider their names for further training.

High Commission organises Business Outreach event on Pharmaceutical Sector



High Commission in partnership with Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) hosted an event in a hybrid mode to enhance cooperation in pharmaceutical sector between India and Zambia. Dr. George Sinyangwe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Republic of Zambia was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Makomani Siyanga, Director General, Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), Mr. Victor Nyasulu, Director General, Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA) and businessmen from both countries joined the event. The event brought the stakeholders from both sides together to discuss opportunities to enhance cooperation in Pharmaceutical sector between India and Zambia (13 February 2024)

UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

11th International Engineering Sourcing Show

The 11th International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS 2024) will be held from 04-06 March 2024 at Coimbatore. IESS 2024 is the major trade exhibition for the industrial and engineering sector, which is going to be held from 4 to 6 March, 2024, at the Codissia Trade Fair Complex in Coimbatore, India. It will also exhibit a wide range of engineering products and solutions including machinery components, tools and technologies. It is focusing on various engineering sub-sectors such as aerospace, automotive, defence, power and infrastructure, etc. For more details and registration please visit <https://www.iessshow.in/>

Global Exhibition on Services (GES)

The 6th edition of the Global Exhibition on Services is being organised by Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) under the aegis of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India from 20-22 March 2024 at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida. For more details and registration please visit <http://www.serviceepc.org/>

UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN ZAMBIA

Agritech Expo

The 11th edition of the Agritech expo being organized by DLG (German Agricultural Society) Agriculture Zambia Ltd is scheduled to be held from 18-20 April 2024 at the GART research center, Chisamba, Central Province Zambia. The Agritech Expo is a commercial to small scale farmer expo. The event hosts over 150 exhibitors and has a footfall of over 15,000. All products concerning to the Agricultural sector are invited to attend. For more details please visit www.agritech-expo.com/

Copperbelt Mining, Agricultural & Industrial Trade Expo (CAMINEX)

Copperbelt Mining, Agricultural & Industrial Trade Expo (CAMINEX) is organized by the Copperbelt Agricultural & Commercial Social Society Ltd to take place from the 28 -30 May, 2024 at the Agricultural and Commercial Show grounds, Kitwe, Copperbelt Province, Zambia. The CAMINEX is a B2B expo for Mining, Agricultural, Manufacturing and Industrial Trade sectors. The event hosts over 150 exhibitors and has a footfall of over 4,000 people. For more details please visit www.caminex.co.zm

The Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF)

The Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) to be organized by the Zambia international trade fair trust is scheduled to be held from the 26 June to 2 July, 2024 at the ZITF Grounds, Ndola, Copperbelt Province. The ZITF is a Commercial trade fair that caters to B2B and B2C. The main categories include Mining, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Energy, Tourism, Business Associations, Small and Medium sized Business, Clothes and cosmetics, Traders, Restaurants, Financial Services and fun fair items. For more details please visit: www.zitf.org.zm

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