

# NEWSLETTER

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



HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA  
LUSAKA

December 2023

**BHARAT SANDESH**

Issue- 15

## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi attends COP-28



(Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi with global leaders at COP-28 World Climate Action Summit in Dubai, UAE)

**Read more :**

Special Address by Prime Minister at the inauguration of High Level Segment of COP-28 of HoS/HoG  
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1981612>

## India co-hosts with UAE the Global Green Credit Initiative at COP-28



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi together with President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of UAE, co-hosted the High-level event on 'Green Credits Programme' at COP-28, on 1 December 2023 in Dubai. The event saw participation of H.E. Mr. Ulf Kristersson, Prime Minister of Sweden, H.E. Mr. Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique and H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council. Prime Minister invited all nations to join this Initiative. The Green Credit Initiative has been conceptualized as a mechanism to incentivize voluntary pro-planet actions, as an effective response to the challenge of climate change. It envisions the issue of Green Credits for plantations on waste/degraded lands and river catchment areas, to rejuvenate and revive natural eco-systems. During the event a web platform, which would serve as a repository of policies and best practices that incentivize environment-friendly actions, was also

launched (<https://ggci-world.in/>). This global initiative aims to facilitate global collaboration, cooperation and partnership through exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices in planning, implementation and monitoring of environment positive actions through programs/mechanisms like Green Credits.



## India and Sweden co-host Phase-II of Leadership Group for Industry Transition at COP-28



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi together with H.E. Mr. Ulf Kristersson, Prime Minister of Sweden, co-launched the Phase-II of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT 2.0) for the period 2024-26, at COP-28 in Dubai. India and Sweden also launched the Industry Transition Platform, which will connect the governments, industries, technology providers, researchers and think tanks of the two countries. During the event, Prime Minister highlighted that LeadIT 2.0 will focus on the following:

Inclusive & Just Industry Transition; Co-development & transfer of low-carbon technology and Financial support to emerging economies for Industry Transition

India and Sweden had co-launched LeadIT at UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019.





*(Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi met H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, H.E. Mr. Ulf Kristersson, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, President of the Republic of the Maldives, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H. H. Mr. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and H.E. Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 on the sidelines of COP-28 in Dubai, UAE)*

## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launches 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth'



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023. During the program, Prime Minister addressed the Vice Chancellors of Universities, Heads of Institutes and faculty members in workshops organized at Raj Bhawans across the country to mark the beginning of this initiative.

The Prime Minister said that in the life of any nation, history provides a time period when the nation can make exponential strides in its development journey. For India, "This Amrit Kaal is ongoing" and "this is the period in the history of India when the country is going to take a quantum leap". He gave examples of many nearby countries that took such a quantum jump in a set time frame and turned into developed nations. "For India, this is the time, right time (Yahi Samay hai, Sahi Samay hai)", he said, adding that each and every moment of this Amrit Kaal should be utilized.

Prime Minister underlined the need to channel the energy of the students and the youth of every university towards achieving the common goal of 'Viksit Bharat'. Noting the diversity of ideas, the Prime Minister stressed linking all the streams towards building a developed India. He urged everyone to go beyond their limits to contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. He suggested running special campaigns in every college and university in the country to connect more and more youth with this campaign. The Prime Minister mentioned the launch of Ideas Portal related to Viksit Bharat and informed that suggestions can be given on 5 different themes. "A prize has also been arranged for the best 10 suggestions. You can also give your suggestions on MyGov", he added. "Idea starts with an 'I' just like India begins with an 'I'", the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that the idea of development can only begin with the 'I' of the self.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister underlined that the roadmap of progress will not be decided by the government alone but by the nation. "Every citizen of the country will have input and active participation in it", Prime Minister said pointing out that even the biggest resolutions can be accomplished by the mantra of Sabka Prayas, i.e. public participation. He gave examples of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India Campaign, resilience during the Corona pandemic, and Vocal for Local highlighting the power of Sabka Prayas. "Viksit Bharat has to be built only through Sabka Prayas", the Prime Minister said. He reiterated the high expectations from the scholars present on the occasion as it is they who shape the vision of the country's development and channelize the youth power. "This is a great campaign to write the future of the country", the Prime Minister concluded and urged them to turn in their suggestions to further enhance the grandeur of Viksit Bharat.

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1984882>



## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Inaugurates Annual Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The Prime Minister also took a walk-through of the Global AI Expo. GPAI is a multi-stakeholder initiative with 29 member countries aiming to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. India is the lead chair of GPAI in 2024.

The Prime Minister said that today, India is the main player in the field of AI talent and AI-related ideas. A vibrant AI spirit is visible in India as the Indian youth is testing and pushing the frontier of AI tech, he said. Referring to the exhibits in the AI exhibition at the Summit, the Prime Minister said that these youth are trying to bring social change through technology. The Prime Minister informed about the recently launched AI agriculture chatbot which will help farmers in various aspects of farming. The Prime Minister also expounded on the use of AI in the fields of healthcare and Sustainable Development Goals.

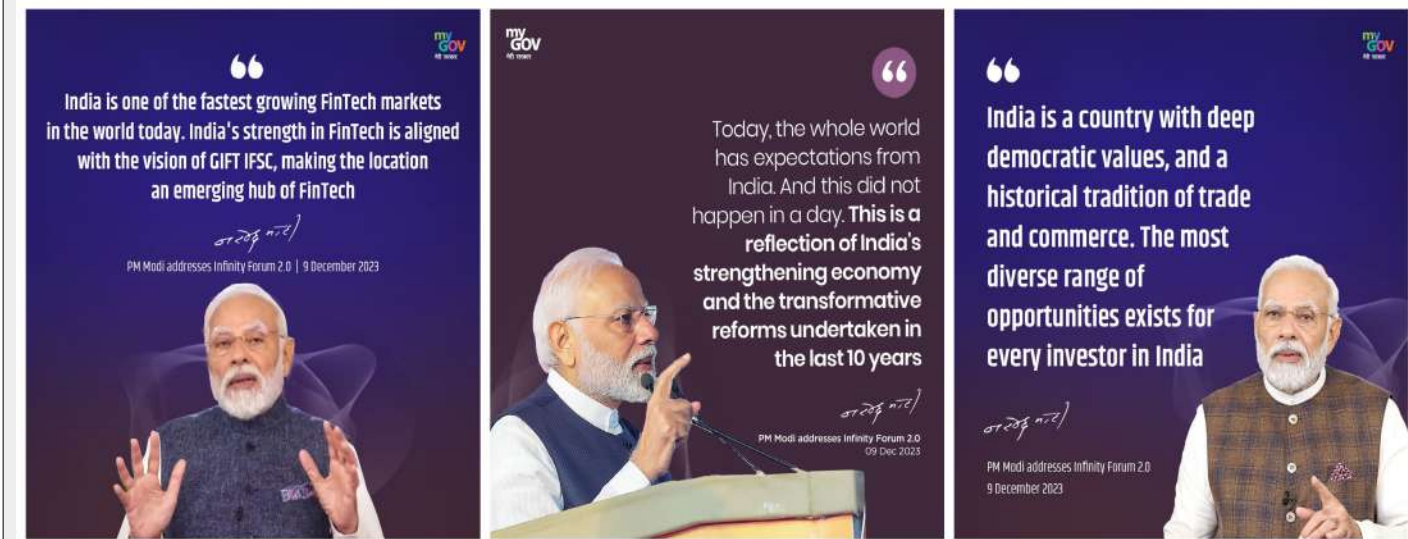
The Prime Minister emphasized that in order to make any system sustainable it is important to make it transformative, transparent and trusted. "There is no doubt that AI is transformative but it is up to us to make it more and more transparent", he added. Keeping the data being used transparent and free from bias will be a good beginning, he said. He said that it is imperative to assure all the countries that no one will be left behind in the development journey of AI. Trust in AI will grow only when related ethical, economic and social aspects are addressed. One way to do this is to make upskilling and reskilling part of the AI growth curve, he said. Data protection and assurances to the global south will also assuage many concerns.

Addressing the stakeholders in the government, the Prime Minister asked them to explore the data of various schemes for evidence-based decision-making and see if the data can be used to train AI tools. He asked if there could be an audit mechanism that can categorize AI tools into red, yellow or green as per their capabilities. "Can we establish an institutional mechanism that ensures resilient employment? Can we bring standardized global AI education curriculum? Can we set standards to prepare people for an AI-driven future?", the Prime Minister continued.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the GPAI Summit will prove to be an excellent opportunity for the exchange of ideas and a great learning experience for every delegate. "Over the next two days, you will delve into various aspects of AI. I hope that the outcomes, when implemented, will definitely pave the way for building a responsible and sustainable future", the Prime Minister concluded.

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1985585>

## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Addresses Infinity Forum 2.0



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi addressed the second edition of Infinity Forum, a global thought leadership platform on FinTech on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The 2nd Edition of Infinity Forum was organized by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), and GIFT City, under the aegis of the Government of India, as a precursor event to Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024. The theme of the 2nd edition of Infinity Forum is 'GIFT-IFSC: Nerve Centre for New Age Global Financial Services'

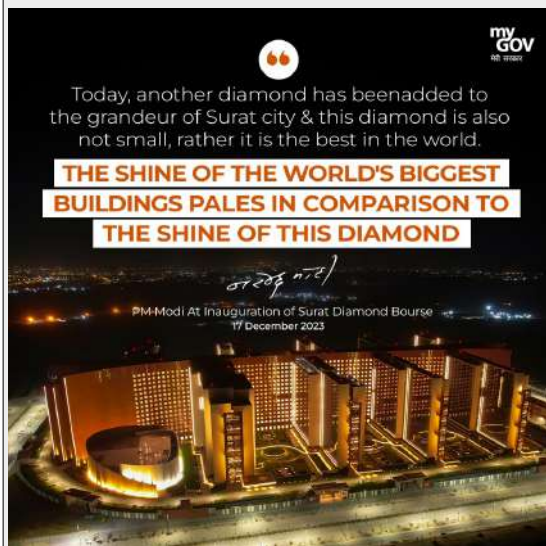
Prime Minister reiterated that India's growth story is based on the government's top priority to policy, good governance and the welfare of the citizens. He informed that India's growth rate during the first six months of the Fiscal Year has been 7.7 percent. As mentioned by the IMF in September 2023, the Prime Minister highlighted India's contribution to the global growth rate of 16 percent in the year 2023. He also quoted the World Bank and said, "Amid the global challenges, there are high hopes with the Indian Economy." Prime Minister also acknowledged the Australian Prime Minister's statement about India being primed to lead the Global South. He highlighted the World Economic Forum's observation about the reduction of red tapeism in India creating better investment opportunities. The Prime Minister underlined that India being a ray of hope for the world is a result of its strengthening economy and the transformative reforms of the past 10 years. He credited India's focus on long-term growth and economic capacity expansion at a time when the rest of the world focused on fiscal and monetary relief.

"India is one of the fastest growing Fintech markets in the world today", the Prime Minister said as he noted that India's strength in Fintech is aligned with the vision of GIFT IFSC, and as a result, it is fast becoming an emerging hub of Fin-Tech. The Prime Minister listed the achievements of IFSCA releasing a Progressive Regulatory Framework for Fintech in 2022, and IFSCA's Fintech Incentive Scheme which provides grants to Indian and foreign Fintechs to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The Prime Minister said that GIFT City has the potential to become the Gateway to the Global FinTech World and a Fintech Laboratory for the world. He also urged the investors to take maximum advantage of it.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister stated that India will become the world's third-largest economy in the next few years and a developed country by 2047. He emphasized the role of new forms of capital, digital technologies and new-age financial services in this journey. He said GIFT City is creating unmatched opportunities with its efficient regulations, plug-and-play infrastructure, access to the large Indian hinterland economy, beneficial cost of operations and talent advantage. "Let us move forward together with GIFT IFSC towards fulfilling global dreams. Vibrant Gujarat Summit is also going to be held very soon", he said inviting all the investors. "Let us together explore and pursue innovative ideas to find solutions to the world's serious issues", Prime Minister concluded.

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1984362>

## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Inaugurates Surat Diamond Bourse



Today, another diamond has been added to the grandeur of Surat city & this diamond is also not small, rather it is the best in the world.

**THE SHINE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BUILDINGS PALES IN COMPARISON TO THE SHINE OF THIS DIAMOND**

PM Modi At Inauguration of Surat Diamond Bourse  
17 December 2023

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse in Surat, Gujarat on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that a new diamond has been added to the magnificence of Surat city. "It is not an ordinary diamond, but the best in the world", Prime Minister said underlining that the radiance of the Surat Diamond Bourse is overshadowing the largest of edifices in the world. He credited the humbleness of Shri Vallabhbhai Lakhani and Shri Laljibhai Patel and the spirit of taking everyone along behind the success of such a huge mission as he congratulated the entire team of Surat Diamond Bourse on the occasion. "Surat Diamond Bourse will now come to the fore along with India's pride during discussions about diamond bourses in the world", he emphasized.

Further dwelling on the capabilities of Surat, the Prime Minister mentioned India's stride from 10<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place in the world economy. "Now Modi has given the guarantee that, in the third innings, India will be among the top 3 economies of the world", he said. The government has a roadmap for the next 25 years and is working on the goals of a 5 trillion dollar economy and a 10 trillion dollar economy, he added. Mentioning the efforts to increase exports, the Prime Minister said that the country's diamond industry will have a big role to play. He asked the titans of industry to explore ways of increasing Surat's role in increasing the country's exports. Stating the leading position of India in diamond jewelry exports, silver cut diamonds and lab-grown diamonds he pointed out that in overall global gems-jewelry exports, India's share is just 3.5 percent. "If Surat decides, then our share in gems-jewelry export can touch double-digit", the Prime Minister said, reiterating the government's support for the sector.

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1987400>

## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023'



Today, Uttarakhand is a shining example of the mantra with which India is moving forward, both development and heritage

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023' on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023. India Mobile Congress (IMC) is the largest telecom, media, and technology forum in Asia to be held from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with the theme 'Global Digital Innovation'. The IMC 2023 aims to strengthen India's position as a developer, manufacturer, and exporter of key cutting-edge technologies. During the program, the Prime Minister awarded 100 '5G Use Case Labs' to educational institutions across the country. Throwing light on the tourism sector of Uttarakhand which has reaped the benefits of the double-engine government, the Prime Minister noted the enthusiasm of people around the world as well as the country to visit India. He informed about the creation of theme-based tourist circuits intending to introduce tourists to nature as well as the heritage of India. The Prime Minister underlined that Uttarakhand which encompasses nature, culture and heritage is going to emerge as a brand. He stressed the investors to make it a priority to explore and create opportunities in the Yoga, Ayurveda, Teertha and adventure sports sectors. He appealed to the rich, the affluent and the youth of the country to initiate the movement 'Wed in India' along the lines of 'Make in India'. He requested them to perform and organize at least one marriage ceremony in Uttarakhand in the next five years. "Even if 5000 weddings take place in 1 year in Uttarakhand, a new infrastructure will come into place and transform the state into a wedding destination for the world", the Prime Minister said highlighting India's potential to achieve any resolve that it takes.

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1983948>



## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Addresses Program Marking 'Veer Bal Diwas'

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**Veer Baal Divas is a symbol of determination to do anything for the protection and security of Bharatiyata.**

This day reminds us that bravery knows no age!

*नरेंद्र मोदी*

PM Modi At Veer Baal Divas programme at Bharat Mandapam  
26 Dec 2023



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi addressed the program marking 'Veer Bal Diwas' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023. "Veer Bal Diwas is a symbol of the never-say-die attitude for the protection of Bhartiya", Prime Minister emphasized, "This day reminds us that age does not matter when it comes to heights of bravery." Calling it a celebration of the heritage of the Sikh Gurus, the Prime Minister said that the courage and ideals of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and his four Veer Sahibzades embolden every Indian even today. "Veer Bal Diwas is a national tribute to the mothers who gave birth to bravehearts with unparalleled courage", the Prime Minister said as he remembered the sacrifices made by the family of Baba Moti Ram Mehra and the devotion of Diwan Todarmal. This true devotion towards the Gurus, the Prime Minister said, ignites the flames of devotion towards the nation.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the world keeps India among the foremost lands of opportunities. India, Prime Minister emphasized, is playing a key role in global problems of economy, science, research, sports and diplomacy. That is why, the Prime Minister reiterated his clarion call that he gave from the Red Fort "Yahi Samay hai Sahi Samay Hai". "This is India's time, the next 25 years will showcase India's capabilities", he added. He also stressed the need to follow Panch Pran and not waste even a single moment.

The Prime Minister advised the youth to give top priority to their health as it is crucial to achieving the desired results in life. He suggested making some ground rules for themselves and firmly adhering to them as he mentioned the challenges of physical exercise, digital detox, mental fitness, adequate sleep and including Shri Anna or millets in their diet. Prime Minister also touched upon the menace of drugs in society and stressed tackling it by coming together as a nation and society. He also urged all religious leaders along with the government and families to initiate a strong campaign against drugs. "Sabka Prayas is imperative for a capable and strong youth power", the Prime Minister concluded, remembering that the teachings of 'Sabka Prayas' as imparted to us by our Gurus will make India a developed nation

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1990383>

## 'Garba of Gujarat' Declared as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO



'Garba of Gujarat' inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO, under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage during the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 5-9 December, 2023 in Kasane, Botswana.

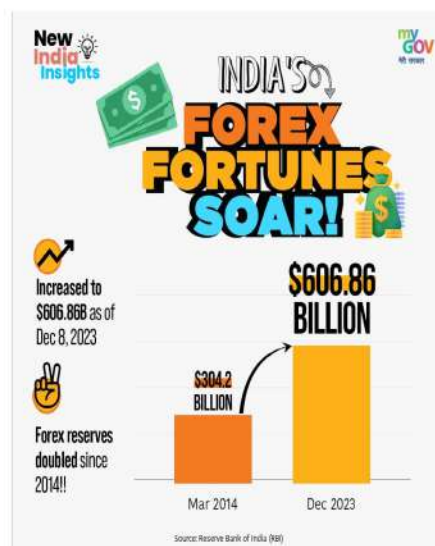
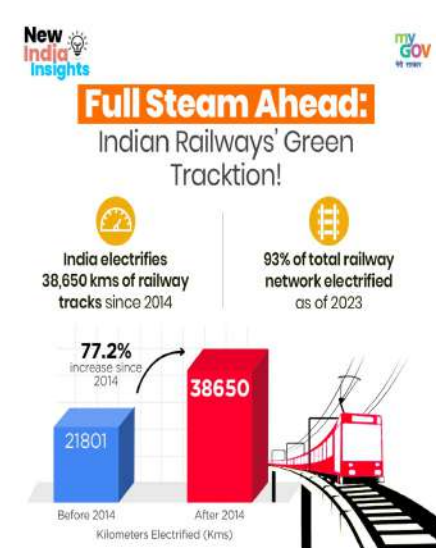
Garba of Gujarat is the 15<sup>th</sup> ICH element from India to join this list. This inscription underscores Garba's pivotal role as a unifying force that fosters social and gender inclusivity. Garba as a dance form is

entrenched deeply in ritualistic and devotional roots, involving people from all walks of life and it continues to thrive as a vibrant living tradition bringing communities together. The inscription further highlights the commitment and efforts of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India towards the safeguarding, promotion and preservation of our intangible cultural heritage.

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1983948>



## Snapshots on India's Economic Growth





## Snapshots on India's Economic Growth

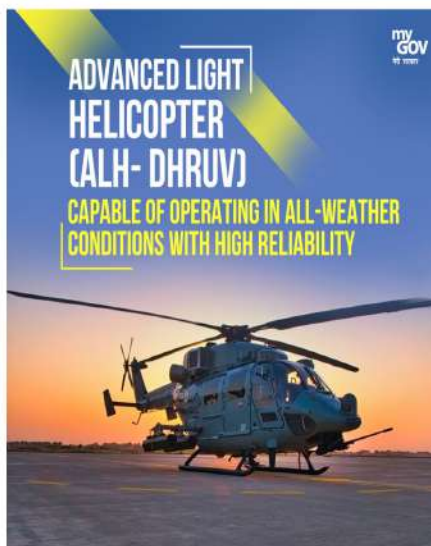
**Armed Forces Get An AATMANIRBHAR UPGRADE**

Capital acquisition proposals worth **2.23 lakh crore approved**

98% to be sourced from domestic industries	LCHs & Light Combat Aircraft Mk 1A from HAL
Anti-Ship Missiles for surface platform of Indian Navy	Towed Gun System to replace Indian Field Gun

**ADVANCED LIGHT HELICOPTER (ALH- DHRUV)**

CAPABLE OF OPERATING IN ALL-WEATHER CONDITIONS WITH HIGH RELIABILITY



**LCH 'PRACHAND'**

FIRST MADE IN INDIA MULTI-ROLE COMBAT HELICOPTER



**FDI BOOM**

Transforming India's Economic Landscape

India Attracts \$594.81B FDI inflow in 9 Years  
65% of the \$918.37B received over the past 23 years

**65%** in just 9 years  
2014-2023

**\$594.81 Billion**

**\$323 Billion+** 2000-2014

**35%** 2000-2014

**MAKE IN INDIA TRIUMPH!**

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**India Semiconductor Mission Hits the Fast Track**

Capital outlay of **₹22,516 crore**

Groundbreaking of the first-ever unit in Bharat done in just 3 months

First semiconductor unit to be constructed in Gujarat's Sanand



**New India Insights**

New India Powered by Clean Energy

Rise in Non-fossil electricity capacity in the last 9 years

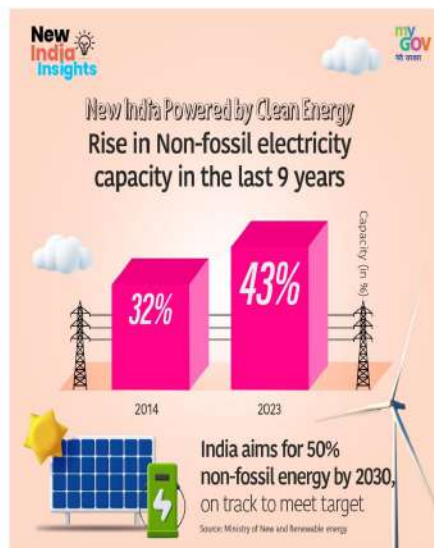
Capacity (in %)

**32%** 2014

**43%** 2023

India aims for 50% non-fossil energy by 2030, on track to meet target

Source: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



**INS VIKRANT**

FIRST MADE IN INDIA AIRCRAFT CARRIER



**LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT (LCA) TEJAS**

LIGHTWEIGHT, MULTI-ROLE SUPERSONIC FIGHTER



**INDIA'S STOCK MARKET SHATTERS EXPECTATIONS**

Surpassed the \$4 Trillion market value for the first time

India Continues its Meteoric Rise Being The World's Fifth-Largest Equity Market



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



## 2023 - A Year of India's Diplomatic Wins

### The Impact of PM Modi's Visits in 2023

Micron announced an investment of \$825M in New Semiconductor Facility in India

Substantial deals were struck such as between Boeing and Air India

An Indian consulate in Brisbane, Australia was announced

India launched SME Development Projects Across Pacific Island Nations







### 2023 Proud Moments from PM Modi's Diplomatic Visits

PM Modi hailed as 'Leader of Global South' by Pacific island nations

PM Modi became the first Indian PM to address the US Congress twice

The bust of Mahatma Gandhi unveiled in Hiroshima

PM Modi performed Yoga at UN Headquarters with people from 180 nations



### Ahead of the Times

2023 - India's Year of Futuristic Pacts

- Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET) with the USA
- Artemis Accords for Space Exploration Cooperation
- MoU on Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership with the USA
- Agreement for the use of India's UPI in France, starting from Eiffel Tower
- Enhanced Cooperation with France in AI, Supercomputing, Quantum computers






### When India Broke the Ice PM Modi Became the First Indian PM

To Visit Greece in 40 years

To Visit Papua Guinea Ever!






To Visit Egypt in 26 years





### The Year of Global Accolades PM Modi was Honoured by 6 Nations

- Companion of the Order of Fiji
- Companion of the Order of Logohu, Papua New Guinea
- Order of the Nile, Egypt
- Legion of Honour, France
- Grand Cross of the Order of Honour, Greece
- Ebaki Award by the Republic of Palau

### 2023 The Year When The World Rallied Behind India

India initiated and co-founded

- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) for the conservation of 7 big cat species
- Global Biofuel Alliance at the G20 Summit
- Green Credit Initiative at the COP28 Summit
- IMECC The India-Middle East-Europe Corridor






## Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi Addresses the 108<sup>th</sup> Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' (31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)



My dear countrymen. Namaskar. 'Mann Ki Baat' means an auspicious opportunity to meet you, and when you meet your family members, it is so pleasing... so satisfying. This is exactly what I feel after meeting you through 'Mann Ki Baat'. And of course today, this is the 108th episode of our shared journey. For us the importance of the number 108 and its sanctity is a subject of deep study. 108 beads in a rosary, chanting 108 times, 108 divine sites, 108 stairs in temples, 108 bells, this number 108 is associated with immense faith. That's why the 108th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' has become all the more special for me. In these 108 episodes, we have seen many examples of public participation and derived inspiration from them. Now after reaching this milestone, we have to resolve to move forward afresh, with new energy and at a faster pace. And what a joyous coincidence it is that tomorrow's sunrise will be the first sunrise of 2024 - we would have entered the year 2024. Best wishes to all of you for 2024.

Friends, whenever we made efforts together, it has had a very positive impact on the development journey of our country. We experienced successful campaigns such as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Meri Mati Mera Desh'. We are all witness to the participation of crores of people in them. Construction of 70 thousand Amrit Sarovars is also our collective achievement.

Friends, I have always believed that the development of a country which does not give importance to innovation, stops. India, becoming an Innovation Hub is a symbol of the fact that we are not going to stop. In 2015 we were ranked 81st in the Global Innovation Index – today our rank is 40th. This year, the number of patents filed in India was high, of which about 60% were from domestic funds. This time the highest number of Indian universities have been included in the QS Asia University Rankings. If we start making a list of these achievements, it can never be completed. This is just a glimpse of how effective India's potential is - we have to take inspiration from these successes of the country; these achievements of the people of the country; take pride in them, make new resolves. Once again, I wish you all a very happy 2024.

Nowadays we see how much talk there is about Lifestyle related Diseases, it is a matter of great concern for all of us, especially the youth. For this 'Mann Ki Baat', I had requested all of you to send inputs related to Fit India. The response you people have given has filled me with enthusiasm. A large number of Startups have also sent me their suggestions on NaMo App; they have discussed many of their unique efforts. My dear countrymen, that's all with me today in 'Mann Ki Baat'. 2024 is just a few hours away. India's achievements are the achievements of every Indian. We have to continuously work for the development of India keeping in mind the Panch Pran. Whatever work we do, whatever decision we make, our first criterion should be... what the country will get from it; what benefit it will bring to the country. Rashtra Pratham - Nation First - There is no greater mantra than this. Adhering to this mantra, we Indians will make our country developed and self-reliant. May you all reach new heights of success in 2024, may you all stay healthy, stay fit, stay immensely happy - this is my prayer. In 2024 we will once again discuss the new achievements of the people of the country.

Thank you very much.

**Read more :** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1991889>



### **High Commissioner attends Mid Career Training Programme- III**

High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar visited India to attend Mid Career Training Programme-III from 04-22 December 2023. He attended various components of training programme at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi and Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. High Commissioner also visited state of Haryana from 18-22 December 2023 on state attachment as part of training programme.

In Haryana, High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar paid courtesy calls on Hon'ble Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Governor of the State of Haryana, Hon'ble Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana and Hon'ble Shri Dushyant Chautala, Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana. High Commissioner briefed them on India- Zambia relations. High Commissioner presented an overview of various economic reforms being undertaken by the Government of Zambia under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia. High Commissioner also highlighted various business opportunities for Indians in Zambia, particularly from the state of Haryana in various sectors viz. agriculture and allied sector, manufacturing, health, SMEs and invited delegations from Haryana in these sectors and explored opportunities for development of Industrial clusters in Zambia. High Commissioner informed about government of Zambia's offer to develop one million hectares of land as farm blocks in its all ten provinces. High Commissioner apprised them on business environment of Zambia including various incentives by the government of Zambia to the investors.

High Commissioner also met Shri Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Secretary, Haryana, Shri Rajesh Khullar, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Venkatesan Umashankar, Principal Secretary to Government (Foreign Cooperation Department), Shri M. D. Sinha, Principal Secretary to Government of Haryana (Tourism Department) and discussed business and investment opportunities in Zambia for Indian investment in various sectors. He also visited Yamuna Nagar industrial area.

High Commissioner visited Aspirational District Nuh. He visited various places in district Nuh and met district functionaries and various stakeholders like farmers, Self Help Groups, school children & women etc. and witnessed first-hand information about various developmental issues of the district. He also visited Atal Seva Kendra and district hospital. High Commissioner discussed ways and means to overcome the developmental challenges through collaboration among various stakeholders. He also explored opportunities of collaboration with government of Zambia in various areas. High Commissioner also visited Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh during his state attachment and witnessed the functioning of passport office.



*High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar called on Hon'ble Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Governor of the State of Haryana during his visit to India for MCTP-III training programme.*



*High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar called on Hon'ble Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana during his visit to India for MCTP-III training programme.*



*High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar called on Hon'ble Shri Dushyant Chautala, Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana during his visit to India for MCTP-III training programme.*



*High Commissioner Mr. Ashok Kumar visited Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh during his state attachment and witnessed the functioning of passport office*



## High Commission holds ‘Business Meet’ – Enhancing Business Relations between India and Zambia



High Commission organised a ‘Business Meet’ under the theme ‘**Enhancing Business Relations between India and Zambia**’ on 15 December 2023 at Hotel Taj Pamodzi to promote business and trade ties between India and Zambia. The event was attended by representatives of about 35 Indian and Zambian companies. Ms. Lillian Bwalya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Republic of Zambia was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Albert Halwampa, Director General, Zambia Development Agency was also present at the event. ODOP items, millets and Ayurveda products were also showcased during the event.



## High Commission holds interactive session with ITEC Alumni



High Commission held an interactive session with ITEC alumni on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The alumni shared their rich experiences, learning and noticeable impact of ITEC programme on their career, skill development & capacity building of Zambia.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) is the leading capacity building platform of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Instituted in 1964, ITEC is one of the oldest institutionalized arrangements for international capacity building having trained more than 200,000 officials from 160+ countries in both the civilian and in the defence sector. Apart from our regular calendar-based training programmes, India also responds to country-specific requests for training in specific areas of governance by organizing customised training programmes which are designed and delivered by the leading institutions in India.



## High Commission celebrates inscription of 'Garba of Gujarat' as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO



'Garba of Gujarat' inscribed in the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 5 - 9 December, 2023 in Kasane, Botswana. High Commission organised a Garba Event on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to celebrate this landmark achievement.

# Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024

## Ceramic & Bath Industry Show

# 11<sup>th</sup> International Engineering Sourcing Show

## Global Exhibition on Services (GES)

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