



ENVOY

Ereignisse, Neuigkeiten, Verbindungen, Opportunitäten, und Zusammenarbeit

Issue 129

India Newsletter

October 2023



Focus Sector: Cement Industry of India

Also find inside:



Department of Tourism
Government of Manipur

Know
INDIA
Programme

A monthly newsletter published by the Embassy of India, Vienna



The G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (G20 EMPOWER) is accelerating women's leadership and empowerment in the private sector. This initiative was launched in 2019 with representation from Government and private sector. G20 EMPOWER endeavours to be the most inclusive and action-driven alliance among businesses and governments for accelerating women's leadership and empowerment across G20 countries.

The TechEquity - G20 EMPOWER Digital Inclusion Platform caters to

Learners

pursuing education in any field



Working professionals

self-employed (entrepreneurs) /
professionals employed in any field



Curious minds

enthused to upskill and/or reskill
themselves



REGISTER

Snapshots

1 According to the data from the Commerce Ministry, India exported smartphones worth US\$ 4.67 billion in April-July of the current fiscal year, with the US accounting for one-third of the shipments in value terms. Smartphone exports increased by 99.52% between April-July 2023-24, as compared to April-July 2022-23. The exports of smartphones to the US during the first four months of FY24 increased multifold to US\$ 1.67 billion against US\$ 284.6 million the previous year.

2 According to the data provided by the Federation of Automobile Dealers' Associations (FADA), Indian automobile retail sales for September saw a substantial uptick, which jumped up by 20% over the same period in the previous year to 1.89 million units. A significant 22% increase in two-wheelers, a 49% increase in three-wheelers, a steady 19% increase in passenger vehicles, and a 5% increase in commercial vehicles were all registered.

3 India's leading fintech, Fibe and Axis Bank, one of the country's biggest private sector banks, collaborated to introduce the country's first-ever numberless credit card for the digitally savvy Generation Z. With a numberless credit card, customers get an added level of security as there is no card number, expiration date, or CVV printed on the card plastic.

4 With the use of the ABHA-based Scan and Share service, the National Health Authority (NHA) generated more than 10 million tokens for OPD registrations, marking a significant milestone. The Scan and Share service has seen rapid adoption by states/ UTs in public health facilities to manage the queues at patient registration counters and offer a better service experience to the patients.

5 In September, the number of unique investors in mutual funds (MFs) surpassed 40 million, with 10 million new ones added in the previous 21 months. Approximately 57% of all income tax filings this year and 6.5% of all PAN card issuances are made up of investors in mutual funds.

For the first time, the industry received more than US\$ 1.92 billion through the SIP route in September.

6 The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 was launched in India by the NITI Aayog, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Geneva. India's ranking stood at 40th out of 132 economies—a significant increase from its 81st position in 2015—which confirms the country's noteworthy accomplishment in a number of innovation-related metrics.

7 From April to September 2023, a total freight loading of 758.20 million tonnes (MT) was obtained, compared to a loading of 736.68 MT the previous year, representing a rise of around 21.52 MT. Indian Railways earned US\$ 9.81 billion compared to US\$ 9.49 billion in the previous year, an increase of around US\$ 235.23 million over the same period last year.

8 Business Finland, the Nordic nation's agency for encouraging trade and investment, and India's HCLTech have signed an agreement to work together on generative artificial intelligence (AI), space, and quantum technologies.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Mr. Piyush Goyal highlights the role of PM GatiShakti in evidence-based decision-making enhancing the ease of living and ease of doing business: PIB

To improve the ease of living and ease of business, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Mr. Piyush Goyal, emphasised the importance of PM GatiShakti in project prioritisation, optimisation, and evidence-based decision-making. While addressing the Workshop on 'Development of Digital Learning Resources for Capacity Building on PM GatiShakti National Master Plan', organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), the Minister said that data-driven training and capacity building is important for ensuring wider adoption of PM GatiShakti principles for the multimodal infrastructure and logistics development.

He also launched a training module on 'Role of CBIC in PM GatiShakti,' developed for the Ministry of Finance which showcases the use of PM GatiShakti for streamlining customs operations for promoting logistics efficiency.

The PM GatiShakti initiative's revolutionary approach, which has allowed Ministries, Departments, States, and UTs to effectively plan large-scale infrastructure projects, was highlighted by Special Secretary (Logistics), DPIIT, Ms. Sumita Dawra. According to her, a significant push for capital expenditures of US\$ 120 billion will support development that

is focused on the needs of people through efficient and well-coordinated resource planning.

The workshop's main objectives were to institutionalise, regularise, and strengthen government officials' knowledge of PM GatiShakti principles through training and capacity building. Participants also discussed the design, content, and structure of industry-specific training modules for applying the PM GatiShakti approach to infrastructure and logistics planning and development. The officers will also become acquainted with data-driven decision-making in the logistics sector through these training modules, which are part of the Foundation, Induction, and Mid-Career courses offered by all Central Training Institutes (CTIs) and State Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs).

There were essentially two sessions to the workshop. In the first session, a panel discussion was held on the topic of mainstreaming the PM GatiShakti principles into the curriculum of CTIs and State ATIs for a developed India. In the second session, four parallel breakout groups were observed to discuss and deliberate on sector-specific training needs, course content, and an effective delivery mechanism framework.

All 36 States and Union Territories as well as 39 Ministries of the Indian government have joined the PM GatiShakti platform since its inauguration on October 13, 2021. Major accomplishments have been made and presented in a number of national and international forums.

Leasing of retail real estate space jumped up by 46% in January-September across the eight cities: CBRE

Due to increased retailer demand, retail space leasing increased by 46% across eight cities during January-September of 2023-24 to

to 4.73 million square feet, according to CBRE. 3.23 million square feet of retail space was absorbed in the same time frame last year. The data relates to the consumption of retail real estate space in stand-alone retail properties, prominent high street locations, and shopping malls.

During this period, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Pune accounted for a combined share of almost 61% in leasing activity among all cities.

According to Mr. Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of India, South-East Asia, Middle East, and Africa at CBRE, "With the surge in newly available spaces and the onset of the festive season, we anticipate a continued upswing in space utilisation."

He added that the retailers are eager to revamp the in-store experiences with cutting-edge technology, personalised services, and space optimisation as the industry prepares for a dramatic transition.

The percentage of leasing for the fashion and apparel industry was 34%, for home & department stores it was 17%, and for food and beverage it was 13% during January-September 2023.

Retail space was leased for 0.9 million square feet in Delhi-NCR, 1.4 million square feet in Bengaluru, 0.3 million square feet in Mumbai, 0.5 million square feet in Hyderabad and Chennai combined, 0.6 million square feet in Pune, 0.1 million square feet in Kolkata, and 0.4 million square feet in Ahmedabad.

"Although we expect consumer spending and retail sales to stabilise compared to the unprecedented growth of the previous year, we foresee continued growth in categories such as restaurants, hotels, transport services, vehicle purchases, as well as apparel and footwear," Mr. Anshuman Magazine stated.

One Nation, One ID: Govt plans unique identification of school children, directs states to begin process: WION

The Union Ministry has started the process of introducing 'One Nation, One Student ID' for school students around the country. It will be a life-long ID that will track students' achievements and academic journeys.

The Union Education Ministry recently notified the states to obtain the consent of parents of all schools under their respective jurisdiction to initiate the enrolment process for the same. This new initiative is named as Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR).

What is APAAR?

The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR), dubbed as 'One Nation, One Student ID', is an Education Ecosystem Registry or an 'EduLocker'. It was part of the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020, under which the government aims to create unique ID numbers for school students across India.

Earlier in May this year, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) head and former AICTE chairman Dr Anil Sahasrabudde had mentioned working on a registry of the entire educational ecosystem, comprising students, teachers, and schools and colleges.

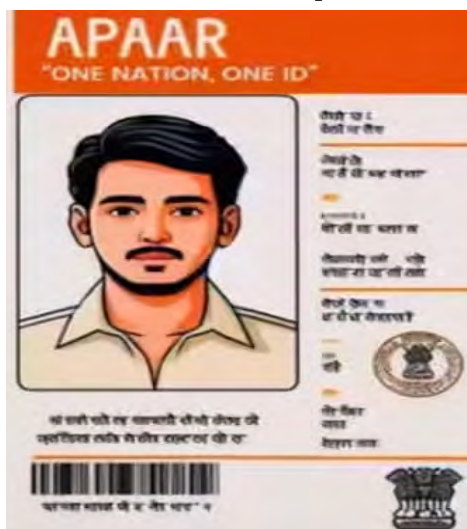
The APAAR will give each student enrolled from pre-primary to higher education a unique identification number. This will be in addition to the already existing Aadhaar ID that every individual has.

The enrolment process will be carried out by the school, with the consent of their parents, who will also be able to withdraw their consent at any given point in time. The government assured that the data will be shared only with concerned government agencies if and when required.

The data collected on each student by the schools will be stored in a centrally functioning District Information for Education portal.

The APAAR being a lifelong ID number will make it easier for students to track their academic journey and achievements. They will be able to digitally store their exam results, learning outcomes, and co-curricular achievements, such as rankings in Olympiads or receiving specialised skills.

It will also be helpful in the hassle-free transfer of a student from one school to another, as all the documents required for admission will be obtained in one place.



India's ranks 40th in the Global Innovation Index in 2023 owing to consistent innovation excellence: PIB

The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 was launched in India by the NITI Aayog, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the World Intellectual Property

Organisation (WIPO), Geneva. India's ongoing improvement in a number of innovation-related metrics is confirmed by the country maintaining its position as the 40th out of 132 economies, marking a tremendous rise from its 81st rank in 2015 to this noteworthy accomplishment.

Dr. Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, Co-Editor of the GII and Head of the Economics and Statistics Division, WIPO praised India for advancing consistently in the GII's global rankings, especially the NITI Aayog. He emphasised the outstanding national-level initiatives and data-driven innovation development in India. India stands out among middle-income countries for its constant increase in innovation over the past five years, which is attributable to efficient policies and coordination. He continued by saying that India is in a "sweet spot" for an exciting future innovation journey, one that will rely mostly on its young people, who are strong, well educated, entrepreneurially motivated, and knowledgeable about intellectual property.

India demonstrates growth in domestic industry diversification, reflecting a 0.46% increase from the prior year, and ranks 10th in this indicator. It shows substantial growth in patents by origin, ranking 28th globally. Additionally, it achieved the 20th rank in the citable documents H-index in 2022. India's cultural and creative services exports soared in 2021, up by a substantial 21.4% from the prior year, securing the 18th position in this thriving sector.

The introduction of the Global Innovation Index 2023 in India is a shining example of the country's everlasting dedication to innovation and its extraordinary ascent to the top of the global innovation league. India is well-positioned to promote economic growth, foster resilience, and embrace self-reliance through innovation since it constantly exceeds expectations and performs exceptionally well on a number of indices.

India is the second-largest producer of cement in the world. It accounts for more than 8% of the global installed capacity. India has a lot of potential for development in the infrastructure and construction sector and the cement sector is expected to largely benefit from it. Furthermore, on the back of rising rural housing demand, the consumption of cement in India has been growing consistently as it is one of the cheapest products to buy in terms of Rs./kg. Strong expansion of the industrial sector, which has fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic shock, is one of the main demand drivers for the cement industry. As a result, there is a strong potential for an increase in the long-term demand for the cement industry. Some of the recent initiatives, such as the development of 98 smart cities, are expected to significantly boost the sector.

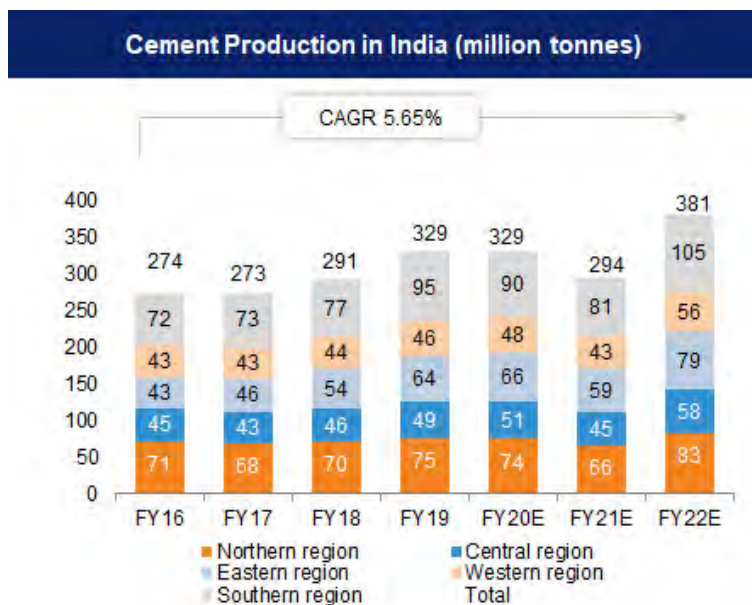
Aided by suitable Government foreign policies, several foreign players such as Lafarge-Holcim, Heidelberg Cement, and Vicat have invested in the country in the recent past. A significant factor which aids the growth of this sector is the ready availability of raw materials for making cement, such as limestone and coal.

Currently, the installed cement capacity in India is 553 MTPA with a production of 298 MTPA.

Market Size

The cement demand in India is exhibiting a CAGR of 5.65% between 2016-22. As India has a high quantity and quality of limestone deposits through-out the country, the cement industry promises huge potential for growth. India has a total of 210 large cement plants, of which 77 are in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu. Nearly 32% of India's cement production capacity is based in South India, 20% in North India, 13% in Central, 15% in West India, and the remaining 20% is based in East India. India's cement production is expected to increase at a CAGR of 5.65% between FY16-22, driven by demands in roads, urban infrastructure and commercial real estate. India's cement production was expected to range between 380-390 million tonnes in FY23, a growth rate of 8-9% year-on-year (yoy).

Between FY12 and FY23, the installed capacity grew by 61% to 570 MT from 353 in FY22. The Indian cement sector's capacity is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4-5% over the four-year period up to the end of the FY27.



It would thus begin the 2028 financial year at 715-725 MT/ year in installed capacity.

India's cement production for FY24 is expected to grow by 7-8% driven by infrastructure-led investment and mass residential projects.

The consumption of cement in India is expected to grow at a CAGR of 5.68% from FY16 to FY22. As per Crisil Ratings, the Indian cement industry is likely to add ~80 million tonnes (MT) capacity by FY24, the highest in the last 10 years, driven by increasing spending on housing and infrastructure activities.

Cement consumption is expected to reach 450.78 million tonnes by the end of FY27.

Investments

- FDI inflows in the industry, related to the manufacturing of cement and gypsum products, reached US\$ 5.49 billion between April 2000-March 2023.

- In April 2023, the infrastructure and real estate asset class recorded US\$ 3 billion in PE/VC investments, an 82% increase y-o-y and a 3% increase over March 2023.

- India's export of panel cement, clinkers, and asbestos cement products stood at US\$ 682.32 million in FY23 while the imports were US\$ 288.42 million.

Haryana

Haryana is among the northern most state in India and adjacent to Delhi, the national capital of India. It is surrounded by Uttar Pradesh in the east, Punjab in the west, Himachal Pradesh in the north, and Rajasthan in the south. The state surrounds the national capital city, New Delhi, from three sides. Historically an agrarian state, Haryana today is a well-developed industrial state.

The state is one of India's largest automobile hubs and accounts for two-thirds passenger cars, 50% tractors and 60% motorcycles manufactured in the country. The state has also emerged as a base for the knowledge industry, including IT and biotechnology. Haryana is the third-largest exporter of software and one of the preferred destinations for IT/ITeS facilities.

As per the advance estimates for 2022-23, the state's GSDP at current prices has been estimated at US\$ 120.44 billion. The state's GSDP (in Rs.) expanded at a CAGR of 10.46% between 2015-16 and 2022-23.

The State Government of Haryana has been committed to creating a progressive business environment. The state offers a wide range of fiscal and policy incentives for businesses under the Industrial and Investment Policy, 2011. Haryana ranked the third best state in the country under ease of doing business in the Business Reforms Action Plan 2017. As of October 2020, the state had seven exporting Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in Haryana stood at US\$ 2.6 billion in FY23 and was US\$ 7.82 billion between October 2019-March 2023.

Key Sectors

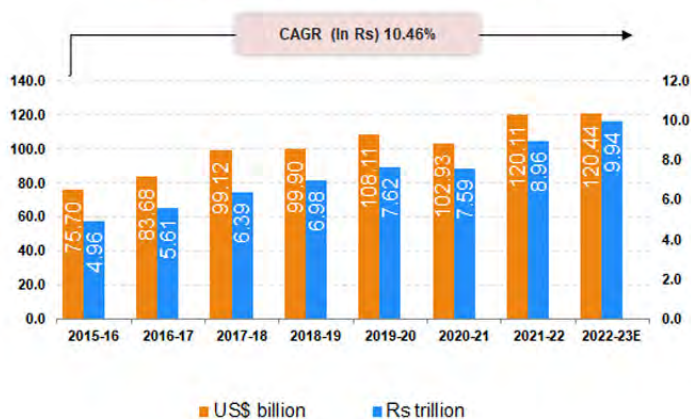
- Gurgaon has emerged as a preferred destination for the IT industry in north India with more than 400 IT and ITeS companies.

- Haryana promotes organic farming; financial assistance is provided to farmers for production and use of vermicompost. Agriculture is one of the biggest employment generators in rural Haryana, with strong potential in value addition & exports.

- Districts such as Panipat, Gurugram, Faridabad, Hisar, and Sonapat have developed into robust textiles center in Haryana. Readymade cotton garments are one of the major exports from Haryana. Readymade cotton garments are one of the major exports from Haryana.

- As of September 2022, Haryana had a total installed power generation capacity of 12,923.11 MW, comprising 6305.87 MW under private utilities, 2,929.30 MW (state utilities) and 3687.94 MW (central utilities).

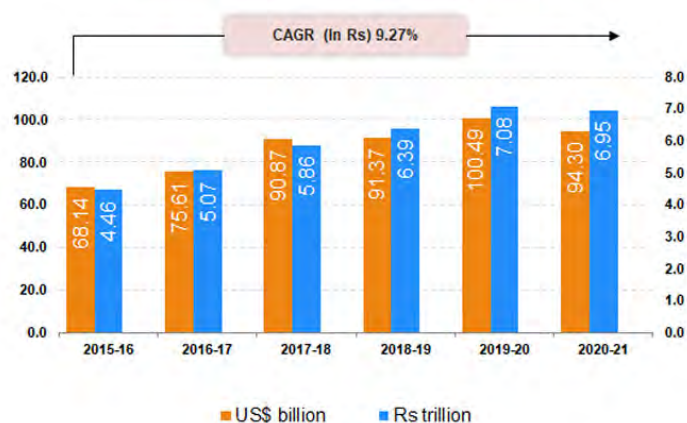
GSDP of Haryana at Current Prices



Note: A – advanced estimates

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of Haryana, MOSPI

NSDP of Haryana at Current Prices



Note: Exchange rates used are averages of each year

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of Haryana, MOSPI

Manipur

Manipur is strategically located in the North-eastern corner of India bordering Myanmar. The state serves as a corridor for India to the South East Asian countries and offers immense possibilities for growth of tourism and regional business. Adorned with a variety of breath-taking locations, the state is indeed a paradise on Earth where Mother Nature has been extra generous in her bounty. Least touched and least discovered, Manipur is a promising tourist destination for adventure and nature lovers alike.

The state has a rich cultural past dating back to centuries. It is the birthplace of Raas Lila- a renowned form of classical dance which was created by Maharaja Bhagyachandra. Manipur is also the birthplace of Modern Polo and the locals call this game 'Sagol Kangjei'. It is a land of festivals and almost every month the people of Manipur get together to celebrate various festivals which reflects its rich culture, traditions and religious practices.

A diverse population that inhabits the state makes it apt to be called a mini India. The people of Manipur include Meitei, Nagas, Kuki-Chin-Mizos, Gorkhas, Muslims and other colourful communities which have lived in complete harmony for centuries. These are the people whose folklore, myths and legends, dances, indigenous games and martial arts, exotic handlooms and handicrafts are invested with the mystique of nature and an indefatigable feeling of happiness or excitement about life.

The state has a travel friendly climate that makes anytime of the year favourable for visitors. The nine mountain ranges that surround the state prevent the cold winds from the north from reaching the valley and also act as a barrier to cyclonic storms from the Bay of Bengal. The state experiences an amiable climate throughout the year though winters can be sometimes very cold. The maximum temperature in the summer months is 32 °C (90 °F). In winter the temperature often falls below 0 °C (32 °F), bringing frost. January is the coldest month in the state, and the warmest is July.

Interesting Facts About Manipur!

- **The largest freshwater lake in northeast India resembling a miniature inland sea and famed for unique floating swamps, known as Phumdis, and the world's only floating National park, the KeibulLamjao.**

- **A symbol of feminine power- the only "all women" market in this world. This exclusive womens' market is more than 500 years old and is run by over 3000 "Emas" (mothers). Men are not allowed to sell goods here.**

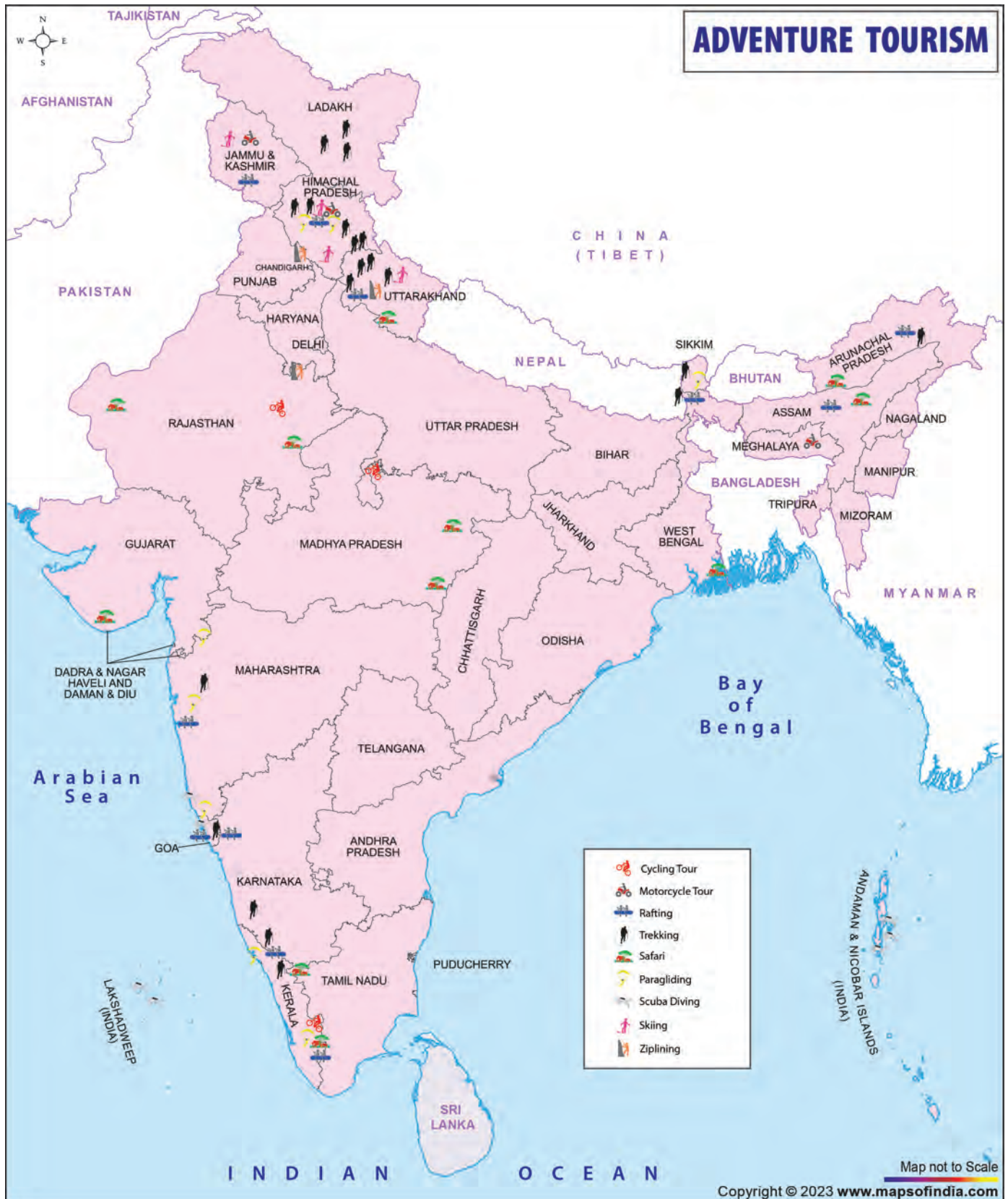


Loktak Lake



Barak Waterfalls

Adventure Tourism Map of India



Embassy Events

The Embassy of India held the inaugural session of 'Ideasphere:India-Austria', a dialogue series facilitating exchange of ideas between the two countries. The session was organized in partnership with ABA - INVEST in AUSTRIA & Bloon Partners and the participants were briefed on how to raise funds and start a Business in Austria.



Dr. Shalini Randeria - the first Indian President and Rector of Central European University, delivered a thought-provoking talk at Embassy of India, Vienna on a 'life lived between different worlds' - straddling three continents, various academic systems and many disciplines - enthralling the audience.



Embassy of India, Vienna organized an Ayurveda Workshop on account of World Mental Health Day with a lecture delivered by Dr. Nutan Pakhre from Mumbai, India , emphasizing on Holistic wellbeing and prevention of illness. The lecture provided valuable insights into the ancient healing system of Ayurveda. Participants left with a deeper understanding of Ayurvedic principles and its potential benefits in our daily lives.



Indian Diaspora in Austria

Leslie De Melo



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BEYOND THE VOID

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Please register until 13th November | leslie@demelo.at

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Upcoming Events



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IDEASPHERE INDIA-AUSTRIA



A SESSION ON
'NAVIGATING THE
CORPORATE
LADDER IN
AUSTRIA'



**MUKUL
RAJPAL**

RETIRED PROFESSIONAL
MENTOR

**02 November 2023
5:30 PM- 7:00 PM**

**Multipurpose Hall,
1st Floor, Kärntner Ring
2, 1010, Vienna.**



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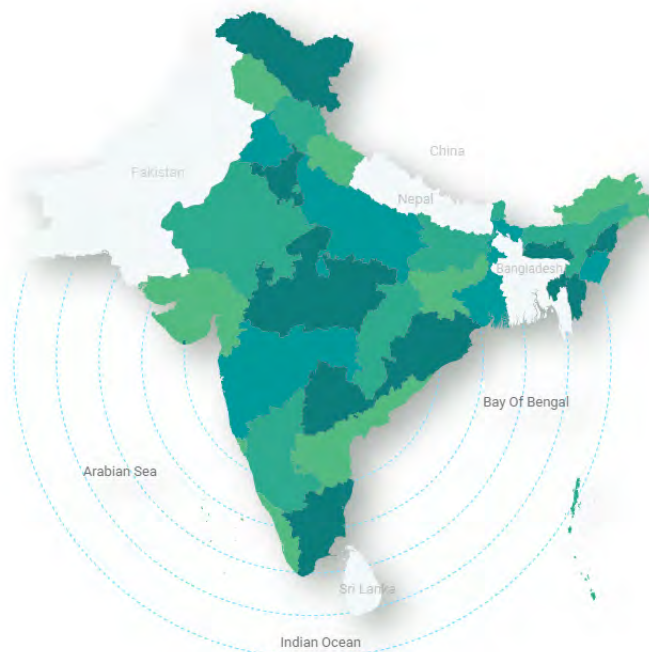


India Programs



INDIA INVESTMENT GRID

India Investment Grid (IIG), an initiative of Government of India showcases investment opportunities across states and sectors in India on a single interactive platform.



INTERESTED IN VISITING A TRADE SHOW IN INDIA?

In case your company is interested in visiting a tradeshow/B2B event in India, be it one listed here or another one that came to your attention, get in contact with us via comm1.vienna@mea.gov.in to get more information about possible assistance/subsidies.



10-12 January 2024

Organised By  **FIEO**
FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

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The Government of India has extended e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) scheme to the citizens of Austria w.e.f. 26th February 2016. This facility is also available to the citizens of Montenegro and the Vatican City. The Indian e-Visa is an electronic travel permit that makes acquiring a visa to visit India easier. After filling out an online form with the traveler's personal information and passport information, the Indian electronic visa can be received fast.

Queries related to e-TV; for any assistance call 24x7 Visa support center at +91-11-24300666 or send email to indian-evisa@gov.in or visit www.indianvisaonline.gov.in



Know India Programme (KIP) is an initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs for the Indian Diaspora youth between the age group of 21-35 years. The primary objective of the KIP is to foster a closer connection between Indian diaspora youth and their ancestral homeland by augmenting their understanding of India. The Programme provides a platform for the Person of Indian Origin (PIO) youth to familiarize themselves with the contemporary India, through about three week knowledge tourism programme providing them an exposure to different aspects of the growth and development of India. More information on: www.kip.gov.in

India Perspectives, the flagship magazine of the Ministry of External Affairs. The magazine is printed in 16 languages and goes to 170 countries, disseminating interesting information about India's rich culture and tradition. For a copy of the magazine, mail us at: poip@mea.gov.in or visit www.indiaperspectives.gov.in



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STUDENTS WELFARE OFFICER

- Mr. Rishi Tripathi, First Secretary in this Embassy has been designated as Officer to look after welfare of Indian Students in Austria and Montenegro.
- His contact details are: 0043 1 505 866 and ccl.vienna@mea.gov.in

YOGA CLASSES

- The Embassy has started Yoga and Dance Classes in multipurpose hall at Embassy of India, Vienna. To register please send an email to our Cultural Wing at culture.vienna@mea.gov.in

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GOES MOBILE

- Avail services : passport, visa, consular assistance
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- Find the nearest Indian Mission/Post : for emergency consular assistance
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Ministry of External Affairs proudly presents "MEAIndia" – an integrated smart app for mobile and other hand held devices 'MEAIndia' is now available for download on App Store and Google Play Store.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

- Our Facebook and Twitter pages target the India-Austria community and covers subjects such as Business, Culture, Embassy News, India-related events and programmes in Austria, and much more. We have reached the 19000 followers mark on Facebook !

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INDIA NEWSLETTER



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