



ENVOY

Ereignisse, Neuigkeiten, Verbindungen, Opportunitäten, und Zusammenarbeit

Issue 128 India Newsletter September 2023



Focus Sector: Roads & Highways



Meghalaya Tourism



सत्यमेव जयते
गुजरात सरकार
Government of Gujarat





The 18th G20 Summit of 2023 took place on 9th and 10th September 2023 in New Delhi, India, marking the first-ever G20 summit hosted by the country. The motto of the summit was, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which translates to "One Earth, One Family, One Future," which has its origins from classical Sanskrit literature and emphasizes on sustainable development.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with the leaders of Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius and UAE, launched the Global Biofuel Alliance on 9 September 2023, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.



भारत 2023 INDIA

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration

New Delhi, India, 9-10 September 2023

All 83 paragraphs of the 2023 G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration were unanimously approved, achieving a remarkable 100 percent consensus, even with China and Russia in agreement. Notably, this declaration stood out by containing no footnotes or Chair's Summary, marking a historic moment.



The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is expected to attract additional Asian countries, boosting manufacturing, food security, and supply chains within its sphere of influence.

Snapshots

1 According to a report by German market research firm GfK, in the first half (H1) of 2023 compared to the same period the previous year, the value of the Indian technological consumer goods (TCG) market increased by 8%.

2 Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Saudi mobility solutions provider Petromin Corporation KSA, have collaborated to invest US\$ 700 million in three important sectors: petrol stations, multi-brand car service facilities, and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations. The investment will be made in the next five years.

3 According to a survey by consulting firm EY, 'GCC Pulse Survey 2023', which was based on the data from 87 GCC leaders, over 86% of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India are focusing on service expansion as their main priority over the next 12 months. In addition, 56% of GCCs are

developing customer-facing products.

4 Some of the top automakers in the world are turning to India as the next big market and a powerhouse for innovation, driven by its youthful, skilled workforce, expanding economy, and supportive governmental policies. A dozen or so international executives, including Mr. Detlev von Platen, Mr. Ola Kallenius, and Ms. Sofia Frandberg, visited India recently to assess their operations in what is now the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

5 The US-based provider of data analytics and cyber security software, Utiytx, and Tata Power Delhi Distribution (TPDDL) have established a strategic alliance. The collaboration aims to improve the business' preparedness for potential threats and difficulties linked to cyber security.

6 According to an Ericsson Mobility Report, the number of global 5G subscriptions at the end of the April-June quarter stood at 1.3 billion. At seven

million, India accounted for the largest net addition of mobile subscriptions in the quarter ending on June 30, 2023.

7 According to information issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), in the first three months of 2023-24, which concluded on June 30, 2023, India's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 7.8%. In the previous quarter, which ended on March 31, 2023, the GDP of India grew by 6.1%.

8 DBS Bank (DBS) and Keppel announced that they had inked an agreement to work together to scale up sustainable urbanization and digitalization solutions across Asia, with an emphasis on India.

9 For the first time in a month, India's quick payment system Unified Payment Interface (UPI) exceeded 10 billion transactions in August, as per the data supplied by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).



India's first green hydrogen-powered bus, unveiled by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), emits only water.

The nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus that emits only water was launched by India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), as it takes the lead in developing unmatched instruments to replace fossil fuels. IOC will split water using electricity generated from renewable sources to make around 75 kg of hydrogen. Two buses that will do test runs across the national capital region will be powered by this hydrogen.

While flagging off the buses, the Oil Minister, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, stated that hydrogen will be India's transition fuel for moving away from fossil fuels.

The Research and Development (R&D) Centre of the IOC at Faridabad is producing green hydrogen for the pilot run. Four cylinders with a capacity of 30 kg can run the buses for 350 km. It takes 10-12 minutes for the four tanks to fill. Hydrogen, when burned, emits only water vapour as a by-product. With three times the energy density and the absence of harmful emissions, hydrogen shines as a cleaner, more efficient choice to meet the energy requirement. As many as 50 units of renewable electricity and 9 kg of deionized water are needed to produce one kilo of green hydrogen.

He further stated that by the end of 2023, the IOC will scale up the number of buses to 15. IOC will conduct operational tests with 15 green hydrogen-powered fuel cell buses on the designated routes in Delhi, Haryana, and UP. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri stated that the administration of the nation has ambitious goals for green and clean energy.

Through the use of novel fuels like hydrogen and biofuels, India has made significant progress towards low-carbon development and will increase its share of the world's energy consumption by 25% over the next two decades.

Following the introduction of the two buses, a total of more than 3 lakh kilometres will be travelled in order to evaluate the performance and long-term viability of the new technology. Achieving "One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency," India has one of the largest synchronous networks in the world that can manage intermittent renewable energy.

He also mentioned that India will lead the world in hydrogen production and exports owing to low-cost solar energy, a synchronous grid, high demand, and engineering, and it is expected to become a centre for green hydrogen. In addition to this, he will be closely monitoring the project, expecting that this green hydrogen-powered bus is going to transform the face of city transport in the country.

Indian auto sector to see 70-80% rise in demand for apprentices:IBEF

The recruitment of apprentices in the Indian automobile industry is expected to increase by 70-80% as a result of the extension of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

According to TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship, the strong success of the auto sector, which is affected by macroeconomic reasons and positive industry sentiments across all of its segments, can also be related to the predicted surge in apprentice recruitment.

As per the report, various states and metro cities are experiencing a larger demand. The states of Gujarat, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh as well as major cities like

Pune, Chennai, and Bengaluru all exhibit this positive trend.

It further mentioned that 75 new companies have joined the PLI scheme, including Maruti Suzuki, Hero MotoCorp, Bosch, and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts.

Mr. Sumit Kumar, Chief Business Officer of TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship, said, "The extension of the PLI scheme, with its US\$ 3.11 billion investment, is a testament to the sector's immense growth potential. The government's expectation of creating 148,000 fresh jobs is proof of the scheme's potential impact."

He further added that an estimated 21,123 people are currently employed, demonstrating the industry's quick expansion.

Furthermore, according to the report, degree apprenticeship programmes are becoming more popular as a way to narrow the skill gap.

In response to these challenges, degree-linked apprenticeships in the automotive sector are emerging as a solution, offering access to sought-after roles such as automotive service technicians, assembly line operators, and shopfloor engineers. These programs also provide competitive stipends ranging from US\$ 150.01-159.61 per month, the report added.

Through the degree apprenticeship program, young talents will be empowered with specialised knowledge in cutting-edge areas such as electric powertrain technology, battery technology, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



PLI for IT hardware 2.0 saw applications from 40 firms and proposed investment of about US\$ 605.7 million: IBEF

40 companies have expressed interest in the new production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware, and it is anticipated that these investments will amount to an additional US\$ 605.7 million in production over the next six years.

"Large IT hardware companies such as Dell and HP are participating directly under the scheme while other major players such as HPE, Lenovo, Acer, ASUS, and Thomson participating through EMS (electronic manufacturing services) companies - Flextronics, Rising Star (Foxconn), etc. - having manufacturing facilities in India," the government said in a statement.

Additionally, applications have been submitted by domestic businesses including Padget (Dixon), VVDN, Netweb, Syrma, Optiemus, Sahasra, Neolync, Panache, Sojo (Lava), Kaynes Technologies, etc.

13 companies, including seven international and six domestic, applied under the hybrid category, compared to 27 for the domestic category.

According to the PLI 2.0 for IT Hardware scheme guidelines and the entire budget outlay of US\$ 2.05 billion, applicants would be chosen in the near future, the government announced.

According to said Mr. Pankaj Mohindroo, the Chairman of the industry body, India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA), "This is not

just 'Make in India'; this is 'Make in India for the World.' It's about becoming globally competitive, especially when it comes to increasing exports."

The PLI scheme, which aims to increase domestic production of IT hardware, provides incentives for Indian manufacturers of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers, and ultra-small form factors. The government said that the scheme with an outlay of US\$ 2.05 billion was oversubscribed, receiving proposals worth US\$ 2.76 billion. The scheme beneficiaries will generate direct employment in excess of 75,000 jobs.

The interest in the new scheme is related to India's recent decision to restrict laptop imports through a licencing system starting on November 1 for national security grounds. According to the revised scheme, global companies will have to invest US\$ 60.4 million over a six-year period, while hybrid and domestic companies will have to invest US\$ 30.2 million and US \$ 2.4 million, respectively.

Incentives for the production of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers, and ultra-small form factors in India are increased under the revised scheme by an average of 5%, more than double the 2% incentive provided under the prior edition. The new scheme also offers participants greater flexibility with regard to investment options and tenure. The applicants can select 2023, 2024, or 2025 as the base year for investment and computing incremental sales, even though the scheme has a six-year overall duration.

Existing applicants (from the previous version of the plan) who have not yet claimed any reward may likewise participate in the new scheme. Applicants who have previously claimed incentives may begin taking part in the second year.

US chipmaking giant Micron starts construction of \$2.75 billion semiconductor factory in Gujarat: Forbes India

About forty kilometres from the city of Ahmedabad—spread across 93 acres inside Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation's (GIDC) industrial estate in Sanand—Micron Technology laid the foundation for constructing its first semiconductor plant in the state, which is expected to be ready by December 2024. Three months after signing an agreement with the government of India, the chip-making giant commenced the construction of the factory on September 23.

Micron has selected Tata Projects to establish this assembly and test facility, which will focus on transforming wafers into ball-grid array (BGA) integrated circuit packages, memory modules, and solid-state drives. The company has announced a total investment of \$2.75 billion. Out of this, Micron would invest up to \$825 million over the two phases of the project, and the rest of the investment would come from the central and state governments. The memory chipmaker will receive 50 percent fiscal support for the total project cost from the Indian central government and incentives representing 20 percent of the total project cost from the state of Gujarat.

This is a major accomplishment in India's dream of high-value-added manufacturing under the India Semiconductor Mission. All the critical pieces of the puzzle are coming together to create an end-to-end supply chain for the sector, explains Chandranath Dey, India Head - Operations & BD, L&I, JLL, a global real estate services firm. "As newer companies evaluate entry into the sector, consistent government support and state-of-the-art infrastructure at affordable prices will contribute to its long-term success," he adds.

India has the second-largest road network in the world, spanning a total of 6.3 million kilometres (kms). This road network transports 64.5% of all goods in the country and 90% of India's total passenger traffic uses road network to commute. Road transportation has gradually increased over the years with improvement in connectivity between cities, towns and villages in the country.

In India, sale of automobiles and movement of freight by roads is growing at a rapid rate.

Key Investments/ Developments

The Union Minister of State for Road, Transport and Highways has stated that the Government aims to boost corporate investment in roads and shipping sector, along with introducing business-friendly strategies, which will balance profitability with effective project execution.

According to the data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Policy

(DPIIT), Cumulative FDI inflows in construction development stood at US\$ 26.3 billion between April 2000-December 2022. In FY22 (until November 2021), the private sector invested US\$ 1.98 billion in roads.

Government Initiatives:

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will come out with the third and fourth rounds of Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) to raise over US\$ 2.41 billion in FY24.

NHAI is planning to award 1,000-1,500 km of projects under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model in 2023-24.

As of June 5, 2023 a total of 737,230 Km road length has been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

NHAI plans to construct 25,000 kilometres of national highways in 2022-23 at a pace of 50 km per day.



Gujarat

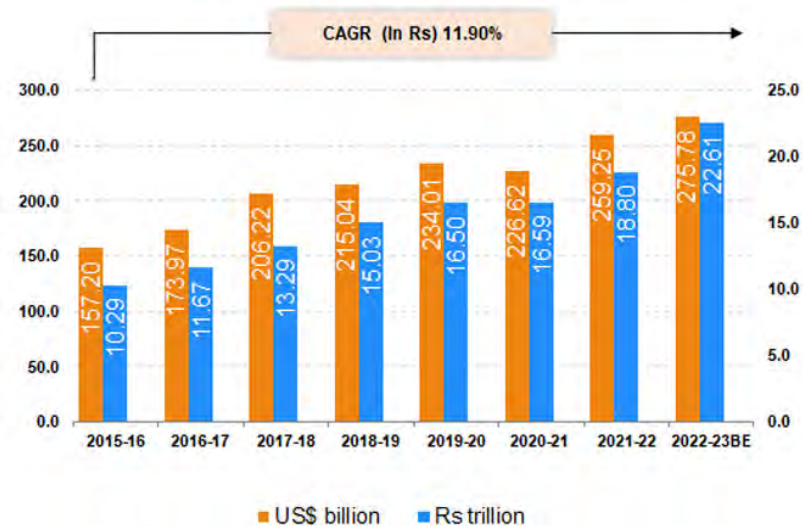
Gujarat is located on the western coast of India and has the longest coastline of 1,600 kms among all the states in the country. The state shares its borders with Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Arabian Sea borders the state on the west and the southwest. Gujarat is one of the leading industrialised states in India. Gujarat is considered the petroleum capital of India due to presence of large refining capacity set up by private and public sector companies. At current prices, Gujarat's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is estimated at US\$ 275.78 billion in FY23, an increase of 15.5% YoY. In 2022-23, Gujarat contributed 8.6% to India's GDP.

The state is the world's largest producer of processed diamonds, accounting for 72% of the world's processed diamond share and 80% of India's diamond exports. With a contribution of 65 to 70% to India's denim production, Gujarat is the largest manufacturer of denim in the country and the third largest in the world. There are 42 ports, 17 domestic airports and 3 international airport. There are 106 product clusters and 60 notified special economic zones (SEZs). Large scale investment is expected in Gujarat as part of the US\$ 90 billion Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).

According to the DPIIT, FDI inflows in Gujarat stood at US\$ 4,714 million in FY23 and were US\$ 31,901 million between October 2019-March 2023.

Gujarat ranks fourth among states in terms of FDI received, with an 83% increase in FDI over the previous year.

GSDP of Gujarat at Current Prices



Note: BE- Budget Estimate
Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics Gujarat, Government of Gujarat

Gujarat ranked 1st in Export Preparedness Index 2021 with the highest exports worth US\$ 131 billion (April 2022- January 2023). Total exports from the state stood at US\$ 146.12 billion in FY23. Petroleum product exports from Gujarat stood at US \$ 36,842.98 million in FY22. Export of drug formulations from Gujarat reached US\$ 2,824.55 million in FY22.

Recent Developments:

In June 2023, Google to set up Global FinTech Operations Center in Gujarat's Gift City.

In June 2023, Mr. Nitin Gadkari dedicated two National Highway projects worth US\$ 5.85 million in Vadodara, Gujarat.

In February 2023, the Gujarat government signed 18 memorandum of understanding (MoU) worth US\$ 1.20 billion under the state government's 'Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Schemes for Assistance to Industries'. It is expected to generate 10,851 employment opportunities.

State Budget

- ☑ US\$ 479.38 million has been allocated to urban development authorities under Swarnim Jayanti Mukhymantri Shehari Vikas Yojana.
- ☑ US\$ 135.33 million has been allocated towards Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and US\$ 91.94 million has been allocated towards the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- ☑ US\$ 50.67 million has been allocated towards National Health Mission.
- ☑ US\$ 137.99 million has been allocated for Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- ☑ US\$ 1,216.73 million has been allocated for Urban Development.
- ☑ US\$ 1,126.38 million has been allocated to Agriculture and allied activities.

Meghalaya

Meghalaya is richly endowed with natural beauty. Everywhere you go, you will never cease to be mystified by the spectacular charm the state offers; from cascading waterfalls, lush green forests, deep caves, amazing and mesmerising culture and tradition to hospitable and friendly people. Visit us and be charmed and captivated for life.

Sohra/Cherrapunjee: Khasi Hills is perhaps best known for Sohra (Cherrapunjee), geographically famous for being the wettest place on earth and also Shillong, one of the most beautiful hill stations in India. Infact the entire Khasi Hills region that forms the central part of Meghalaya is richly endowed with natural beauty.

Mawphlang Sacred Grove: One of the most remarkable features of the Khasi Hills are the sacred forests, which have been preserved by traditional religious sanction, since the ancient days. One of the most famous sacred forests is the Mawphlang Sacred Forest, about 25 kilometres from Shillong.

Mawlynnong Village: Mawlynnong Village has earned the distinction of being one of the cleanest villages. It is situated 90 kms from Shillong and besides the picturesque village, offers many interesting sights such as the Living Root Bridge in the neighbouring village called Riwai.

Nokrek Biosphere Reserve: Nokrek Biosphere is the home of a very rare species of citrus locally known as Memang

Narang or orange of the spirits. Memang Narang (Citrus Indica) is considered to be the most primitive and progenitor of all other varieties of citrus plants in the world.

Nartiang Monoliths: The biggest collection of monoliths or megalithic stones in one single area is to be found in Nartiang, Jaintia Hills. These consists of Menhirs (Upright stones), flat stones in the horizontal position. Within the perimeter of these Megalithic collection stands the tallest Menhir erected by U Mar Phalyngki a trusted lieutenant of the Jaintia King between 1500 AD and 1835 AD.



Meghalaya Tourism App





Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has notified the creation of a new category of Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine. The introduction of Ayush Visa fulfills the proposal for introduction of a special visa scheme for foreigners visiting India for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care, wellness and Yoga.

A new chapter i.e. chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 - Medical visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments has been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019.

Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, said, “The creation of new category of Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals seeking treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine is a significant step. It will boost Medical Value Travel in India. This initiative will strengthen our endeavor to accomplish our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision for making Indian traditional medicine a global phenomenon. I also want to compliment Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, GoI for his efforts in creating a special Ayush Visa category”. It is pertinent to mention that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

had announced a creation of a special Ayush Visa category for facilitating foreign nationals travel to India seeking Ayush therapy, at Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIIS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in April 2022.

Introduction of Ayush Visa category is part of India’s roadmap for the Heal in India initiative of the government, which is intended at promoting India as a medical value travel destination. Ministry of Ayush and the ministry of Health & Family Welfare are working together to develop a one stop Heal in India portal to promote India as a Medical tourism destination of the world.

Medical Value Travel has seen significant growth in India in recent years. According to the report ‘The Global Wellness Economy: Looking beyond COVID’ by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI), the Global Wellness economy will grow at 9.9% annually. Ayush based healthcare & Wellness economy is estimated to grow to \$70 billion by 2025.

Ministry of Ayush has been working on many fronts to promote Ayush system of treatment national and globally. Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Ministry of Tourism, GoI was signed to work together for the promotion of Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine.

World Heritage Sites of India

In India, there are 42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In September 2023, UNESCO added Santiniketan, founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas in Karnataka as world historic site.

Few Interesting facts about UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India:

Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda: *Nalanda is the most ancient university in India.*

Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi: *It is considered the oldest Buddhist Sanctuary in existence.*

Ellora Caves: *Jain and Hindu Temples and Monasteries. These caves were excavated out of Hills, and it is a rock-cut Architecture.*

Dholavira: *It was Indus Valley Civilization's fifth-largest metropolis after Mohen-jo-Daro, Ganweriwala, Harappa and Rakhigarhi.*

Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple: *Built in the 13th century CE, the temple is a Kakatiyan marvel made of sandstone.*

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary: *It is the first reserve included in the network of tiger reserves under Project Tiger in 1973.*

Churches and Convents of Goa: *It is famous for Rome of the Orient, First Manuline, Mannerist and Baroque Art Forms in Asia, First Latin Rite Mass in Asia.*

For more information on UNESCO World Heritage sites in India visit the UNESCO World Heritage Convention website: [Click here](#)



Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas, Karnataka



Santiniketan, West Bengal

Embassy Events

On 21st September 2023, Embassy of India and Modul University jointly hosted an informative and engaging event centred around the theme of "Millets and Sustainability." The event aimed to raise awareness about the environmental and nutritional benefits of millets, with a special presentation by Dr. Arindam Ghatak, Senior-Scientist, Molecular Systems Biology (MOSYS), University of Vienna followed by a delightful millets-based food tasting session.



Six reasons to bring millets to the market!

- Millets are there when others are not.*
- Millets can contribute to a healthy diet.*
- Millets are climate-resilient.*
- Millets offer promising livelihood opportunities for small-scale farmers.*
- Millets' trade can improve the diversity of the global food system.*
- Millets can be used in many innovative ways.*



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**Monday to Friday
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7:45am to 8:30am

10:30am to 11:30am

2:30pm to 3:30pm



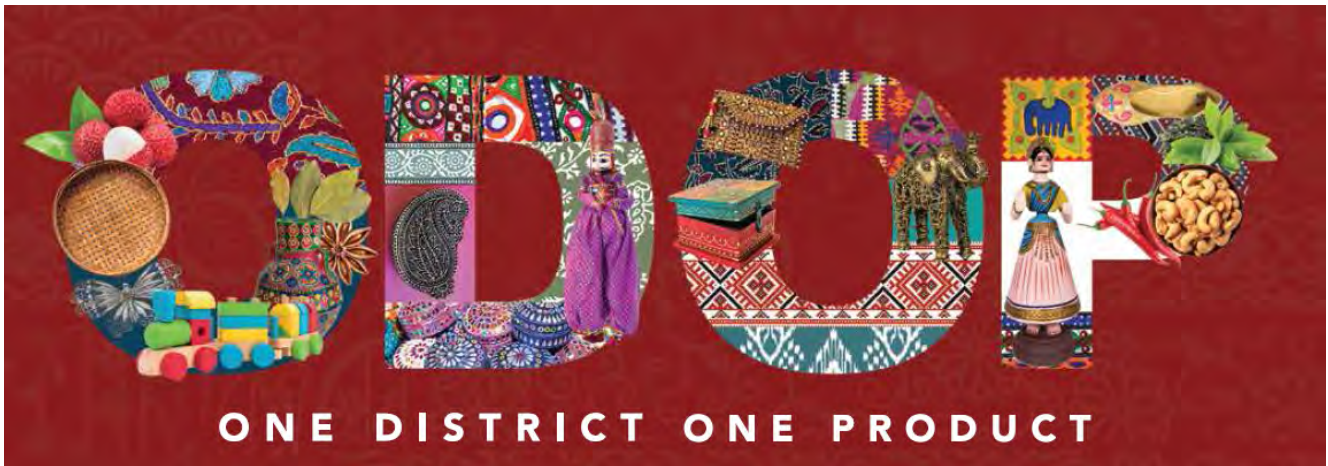
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Spirits of India

The distinctive regional liquors of India



Mahua Koriya, Chhattisgarh

Known as Indian tequila, it is the world's only flower-based distilled spirit. Useful due to its versatility, the mahua tree is a central feature of the daily subsistence for many tribal communities in Chhattisgarh. This indigenous alcohol has made its mark in both national and international markets.



Feni North Goa & South Goa, Goa

A traditional liquor, known as "Heritage Spirit", Feni is distilled from the fermented juice of cashew apple or coconut toddy, within the State of Goa. It has a strong fruity flavor, peculiar taste, strong aroma, and astringent smell. The unique taste of the Feni is not found in any other available liquor and is a must taste for a holistic Goan experience.

Trade Fairs/ Webinars

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.



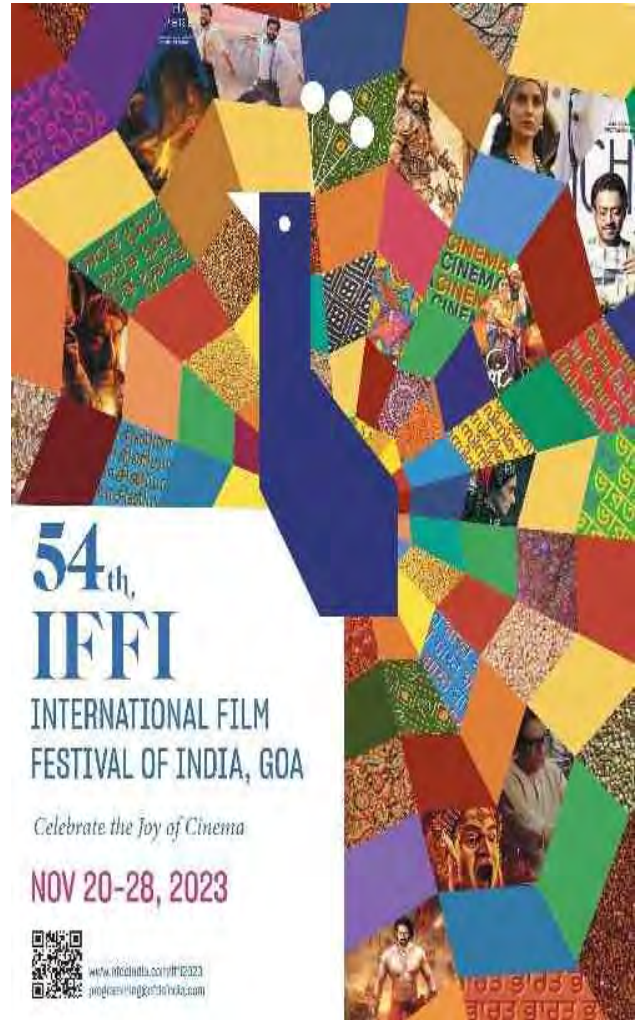
INDIA 75
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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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



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

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (erstwhile Central Board of Excise & Customs) launched a mobile app "Indian Customs -Guide to Travelers" for dissemination of information about the Customs Baggage Rule, 2016. The application has been launched to inform traders, exporters and importers about the Customs Baggage Rules 2016. It has been developed by Bengaluru Customs and is available on [Android Play store](#), [Apple Store](#) and [Windows store](#).



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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

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