



Republic Day Message from the High Commissioner of India to Singapore

We stand united today in celebrating the 75th Republic Day of India – a day that marks the birth of our Republic and the adoption of our Constitution. It is with immense pride and a profound sense of responsibility that I extend my warmest greetings to all the readers on this occasion

Seventy-four years ago, on this very day, we embarked on a remarkable journey guided by the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in our Constitution. It remains the cornerstone of our democracy and continues to inspire many other nations. As we reflect on our past, we must also acknowledge the progress we have made as a nation. From overcoming colonial rule to becoming a leading power, India's journey has been extraordinary.

The year gone by has been particularly noteworthy. With the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3, India became the fourth country to accomplish a soft landing on the lunar surface, and the very first country to achieve it on the South Pole.

During India's G-20 Presidency, there was a successful refocusing of attention on developmental challenges. It was reflected in an action plan to achieve SDGs, a green development pact, reform of international financial institutions, promotion of digital public infrastructure and encouragement of women-led development.

With AADHAAR, low-cost mobile

data and government's financial inclusion programme, India has created more than 500 million new low-cost bank accounts (56% are for women). This has enabled higher efficiency in delivering public services, solving societal problems and substantial savings for the government.

India's homegrown digital payment system is now used by more than 300 million individuals and 40% of all payments in India are conducted digitally. India and Singapore also launched the UPI-PayNow linkage last year and are looking to expand the coverage.

India is also focused on addressing the issues of climate change, and it is one of the few economies on track to meet the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets. Our objective is to reduce emissions intensity by 45% by 2030; increase the share of non-fossil fuel to 50% (entails installed renewable capacity of 500 GW); and net zero by 2070. We are committed to achieving these goals.

During its G-20 Presidency, India consistently laid emphasis on the issue of the environment with the motto of One Earth, One Family, One Future. We decided on the principles of



Dr. Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore

Lifestyles for Sustainable Development and adopted the PM's initiative of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) which seeks to enhance the overall well-being of our planet through changes in our daily lifestyle.

Being the fastest growing major economy now, looking ahead, we are on track to become a USD 5 trillion economy soon and have the goal of becoming a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, on completing 100 years of independence.

Efforts are also being taken to double farmers' incomes and create infrastructure to boost economic growth. Production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes in various sectors are designed not only to boost manufacturing but also to bring in

advanced technology. Importance is given to skilling and training so as to have a workforce capable of delivering the growth targets.

The relationship between India and Singapore is steeped in history and shared cultural heritage. Our partnership has flourished over the years, encompassing trade, defence, technology, and people-to-people ties.

The Indian diaspora in Singapore has been a living bridge between our nations, contributing significantly to the multicultural fabric of this vibrant city-state. As we enter the digital and green era, our cooperation is also expanding into these new fields

including green hydrogen, cross-border digital payments, skills, food security and technology.

We deeply appreciate Singapore's constructive participation as a special invitee at the G20 under the Indian Presidency. It was a good opportunity for ministers and senior officials on both sides to engage in the margins of the meetings. We are committed to further strengthening and deepening our partnership this year.

In conclusion, I wish you all a joyous Republic Day. May the Indian tricolour fly high, and our relations soar even higher.

Jai Hind!

Content provided by the High Commission of the Republic of India in Singapore



HAPPY 75th REPUBLIC DAY INDIA!

Together, we are driving the future. Creating history.

For 30 years, CapitaLand Investment Limited (CLI) has been a key contributor to India's growth. Headquartered and listed in Singapore, CLI is a leading global real estate investment manager with a strong Asia foothold.

We pioneered India's first business park in 1994. Today, CLI has S\$5 billion of real estate assets under management across eight major Indian cities. We have supported India's economic development through our diversified portfolio of business parks, data centres, logistics and industrial parks, lodging properties, and coworking spaces. CLI also has deep investment and fund management expertise through CapitaLand India Trust and our private funds.

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The India Stack Revolution: Bridging the Financial Divide

The landscape of traditional financial services has undergone a profound shift with the advent of FinTechs. This transformation has significantly impacted the delivery of financial services by making them faster, cheaper, more efficient, and more accessible.

The global FinTech sector, currently generating \$245 billion in annual revenue – a mere 2% share of the global financial services revenue – is estimated to reach \$1.5 trillion in annual revenue by 2030. The Indian FinTech industry is projected to generate around \$200 billion in revenue by the year 2030.

This projection indicates that by 2030, India's FinTech sector could potentially contribute to approximately 13% of the global FinTech industry's total revenue. These projections underscore the increasing significance of the Indian FinTech sector.

Technological innovations by FinTechs are the result of the interplay between the underlying (i) digital public infrastructure; (ii) institutional arrangements; and (iii) policy initiatives. These key elements help foster a conducive environment for nurturing creative ideas and promoting transformative technologies, which lead to beneficial and impactful changes in the financial industry.

Digital Public Infrastructure

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is commonly recognised as a technology system that promotes interoperability, openness, and inclusion to deliver vital public and private services. The defining feature of the Indian 'model' of digitalisation is the lead taken by the Government and the Public Sector in building infrastructure, on top of which innovative products are created by private sector FinTech firms and start-ups.

India has pioneered a layered approach to DPI, with the concept of the India Stack. In this respect, the impact of JAM trinity, i.e., Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar, and Mobile in terms of financial inclusion, digitisation of financial services, and the emergence of the FinTech ecosystem has been significant.

Jan Dhan Yojana/Bank accounts

As per the World Bank's Global Findex Database 2021, 76% of adults worldwide had access to an account in a bank or a regulated financial institution, compared to 51% in 2011. In comparison, the percentage of adults in India who had access to a bank account increased from 35% in 2011 to 78% in 2021.

The Jan Dhan scheme launched by the Government of India in 2014 for the universalisation of bank accounts has played a significant role in achieving this remarkable progress, with over 513.2 million Jan Dhan bank accounts opened in India (as of 27 December 2023).

Aadhaar- Digital identity

Aadhaar, India's biometric identity system, provides a single and portable proof of identity. As of January 2024, the Unique Identification Authority of India had issued 1.378 billion Aadhaar identities.

The unique Aadhaar identification number allows individuals to verify their identity through authentication, regardless of their location, thereby ensuring convenient access to financial services, targeted financial subsidies, benefits, and other services nationwide.

This has also enabled FinTechs to offer paperless and contactless financial services. Aadhaar has strengthened the security of financial transactions and substantially mitigated the risk of identity fraud.

Mobile Connectivity

The spread of mobile connectivity has also played a major role in the digitisation of financial services in India. The number of internet users through mobile phones in India has grown from about 70 million in 2014 to about 1.05 billion in 2023.

During the same period, the number of digital payment transactions in India grew from about 207 million in FY 2017-18 to about 116 billion in 2023-24 (till 11 December). The increasing affordability of mobile phones, cheap access to data, and the expansion of mobile network coverage have spurred the growth in the adoption of mobile wallets, UPI, and other digital payment methods.

Unified Payments Interface

The success story of UPI has become an international model. Its ability to instantly transfer money between bank accounts through mobile applications has transformed the way people make digital transactions.

The interoperability of UPI across banks has created a unified payment ecosystem. In early 2023, RBI and the Monetary Authority of Singapore launched the linkage between Singapore's PayNow and India's UPI for real-time payments. Its user-friendly interface and QR code-based payments have made it very popular. It has



PAY NOW
UPI
UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

Linkage between PayNow & India's Unified Payments Interface was launched by Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 21 February 2023

Photo credit: Prime Minister's Office, Singapore

facilitated digital payments for small businesses and street vendors, leading to greater financial inclusion.

UPI has also spurred innovation in the FinTech space, leading to the growth and development of other payment systems. For instance, the volume of transactions through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) increased phenomenally after UPI-based platforms started providing such facilities. Prepaid Payment Instruments/mobile wallets have also witnessed higher volumes when mobile wallets were made interoperable through UPI.

The success of UPI is reflected in the sheer numbers, as more than 10 billion transactions for over ₹15 trillion in value were carried out in August 2023. India's technology stack has accelerated digitalisation through mobile phones and the internet; identity system; data sharing rails (AA framework); payment rails; and universalisation of bank accounts.

Latest Initiatives

RBI is planning to launch Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), which provides unique opportunities as it represents the next milestone in the evolution of the payment system. RBI has commenced pilot runs of India's CBDC (e-Rupee) for specific use cases in both wholesale and retail segments.

The CBDC-Retail Pilot covers both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) transactions. Over 1.46 million users and 0.31 million merchants are currently part of the pilot. By the end of 2023, the target of one million daily transactions has been achieved by the RBI.

Pilot programmes have also been initiated on the end-to-end digitalisation of small-ticket agricultural loans (known as Kisan Credit Card – KCC loans) in a few states, and the government of India is developing a platform to provide frictionless credit for all segments of loans.

This pilot enabled the successful disbursement of agricultural loans up to ₹160 thousand (not requiring any collateral) per borrower, within a few minutes to farmers by integrating with the digitised state land records database, Credit Information Companies (CICs), satellite data, Aadhar e-KYC, etc.

Currently, data required for credit appraisal exists in separate systems of different entities like central and state governments, technology and FinTech companies, banks, and service providers. Accessing customer data available from multiple data sources is a challenge for banks as it would require multiple integrations with each information provider.

To enable frictionless credit, in August 2023, RBI had announced the launch of a

digital Public Tech Platform, conceptualised and developed in association with the RBIH. The platform enables the seamless flow of digital information from all the above sources to lenders, obviating the need for multiple integrations.

A Better Future

Technological innovation has unprecedented potential to make finance more inclusive, competitive, and robust. Technological advancements in the world of FinTech must evolve responsibly and are truly beneficial to the people at large. It is, therefore, vital for these innovations to be scalable and interoperable. FinTech players should themselves ensure responsible digital innovations. The government of India, on its part, will continue to drive the necessary regulatory and other policy measures to promote a vibrant and responsive FinTech ecosystem.

The Indian economy is growing rapidly, and with it, the demand for financial services. The coming years hold immense promise, and innovators across the world should explore these opportunities.

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GREETINGS ON THE MOMENTOUS OCCASION OF INDIA'S



REPUBLIC DAY

We wish the nation peace, prosperity and a renewed commitment to building a stronger and more vibrant India.



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Heartiest Congratulations to

India

on its

75th Republic Day

26th January



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Startup20: India's Gift to the World

India's presidency of the G20 gave birth to the Startup20 Engagement Group (Startup20). For the first time in the history of the G20, this group provided startups and other small businesses with their platform to recommend to world leaders how to integrate the power of the small and innovative into the global economic discourse.

The group's efforts reached its first milestone when world leaders accepted it as an enduring feature of the G20 architecture in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD) on September 9, 2023:

"We recognise that startups and MSMEs are natural engines of growth. They are key to socio-economic transformation by driving innovation and creating employment. We welcome the establishment of the Startup 20 Engagement Group during India's G20 Presidency and its continuation."

– Para 18, New Delhi Leaders' Declaration

Startup20 has claimed the title of the world's highest policy forum for startups and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from its inception. The startup ecosystems across G20 nations comprise over 850,000 startups, 1600 unicorns, 20,000 incubators, and 41,000 investors, such as Angel Investors, Venture Capitalists, and Private Equities. Startups exist in all sectors of the economy, and every G20 nation supports them. The three principles are created considering this vast canvas whose responsibility the group assumes.

Policy Communiqué (The Goa Sankalpana)

The Startup20 Policy Communiqué was adopted at the Startup20 Shikhar Summit in Gurugram on 3-4 July 2023 with consensus across the participating G20 and invited nations.

The group has recognised the sincere efforts of every G20 nation to support startups and has proposed a way to weave the national startup ecosystems into a global one to make them an engine of economic growth worldwide.

In its inception year, the group has called upon G20 leaders to raise their joint annual investment in the global startup ecosystem to \$1 trillion by 2030. To harmonise the global ecosystem, while retaining the autonomy of the national ecosystems and helping startups achieve their full potential, the group has recommended (a) adopting a Global Startup Definition Framework and governance,

and due diligence standards, (b) creating channels to access global financing, market, and talent, (c) emphasising inclusive practices to support diverse and under-represented groups, and (d) building capacity to identify and scale startups that address common challenges, such as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

To implement these measures, it has proposed building a networked institution of existing nodal agencies across G20 nations. The group has proposed four measures by which its success must be measured in enabling the G20 nations to scout promising startups internationally, fund them collaboratively, mentor them contextually, and scale them globally.

Path Forward

Apart from being accepted by world leaders for continuation in the G20 architecture, perhaps the greatest success for the Startup20 Engagement Group came when Brazil, the country that has the next year's presidency of the G20, announced at the Gurugram Shikhar Summit that they would take the group forward wholeheartedly. The work of Startup20 has already produced several actionable outcomes for us to take forward.

For the first time, the world came together to produce a consensus-based Startup Definition Framework. The framework is based on the existing definitions of startups across the G20 countries, academic literature, and expert consultations. Such a framework is intended to help stakeholders understand what makes an entity a "startup" in different parts of the world and how to "value" it.

Recognising that the true potential of startups will not be realised until startup ecosystems establish a culture of accountability, transparency, and ethical behaviour at all levels through self-governance, the group has produced a Startup Governance Framework. This framework is a comprehensive guide for startup founders to take practical measures to embrace corporate-like governance at the early, mid, and mature stages.

Leveraging the existing commitment of G20 nations towards meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the group has published a Framework for Identifying and Guiding SDG-focused Startups. This framework tackles the important challenge of identifying and fostering startups that are truly SDG-focused and proposes ways to scale them to global impact.

Acknowledging the importance of including underrepresented groups and communities on one hand, and the challenge of catering to the great diversity of those who are considered underrepresented on the other, the group has produced a catalogue of Inclusive Practices Across G20 Nations for building innovation ecosystems.

This area needs much work and further consensus building, as who is "under-represented" means different things to different nations, and there will not be a one-size-fits-all.

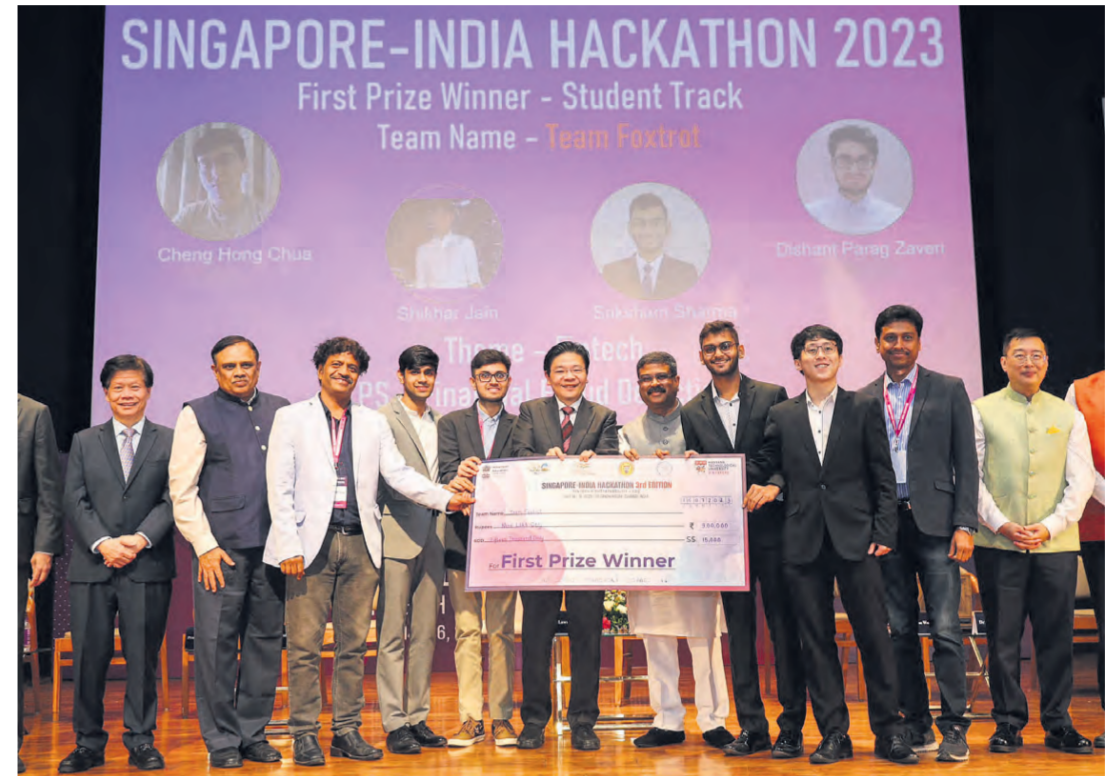
Finally, to ensure that the above actions are taken consistently and effectively, the group has proposed an Architecture for a Global Networked Institution. This framework envisions a three-tiered networked institution comprising a Global Network of Centers (GNC) that will weave together the existing regional nodes (RNs) via regional network centres (RNC) that act as their nodal access point or point of contact. Succeeding at this goal is the enduring way to implement the Startup20 agenda.

What Startup20 has achieved over the past six months lays the foundation for the next decade of work in building the global startup

ecosystem. Determining whether we succeed in the medium to longer term is simple and clear.

We would have succeeded if our efforts allowed the G20 nations to identify promising startups globally, invest in them collaboratively, mentor them contextually, and scale them to global impact.

For the time being, however, the clarity and magnitude of the commitment by G20 as well as invited nations towards the Startup20 Communiqué speaks for itself. What shines through is the power of fully embracing the philosophy undergirding India's G20 Presidency: One Earth, One Family, One Future!



In July 2023, Deputy PM Lawrence Wong attended the award ceremony for the third edition of the Singapore-India Hackathon, where students and start-ups from both countries competed to come up with innovative solutions for financial inclusion and sustainability. Photo credit: Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore

India's Startup Ecosystem

India has emerged as the third largest ecosystem for startups globally with over 100 thousand startups across 56 diverse industrial sectors, with 13% from IT services, 9% from health-care and life sciences, 7% from education, 5% from agriculture, and 5% from food & beverages. India is home to 111 unicorns with a total valuation of \$349.67 billion.

Singapore-India Hackathon 2023

The third Singapore-India Hackathon was launched on March 13, 2023, in New Delhi by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, India's Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship and Mr. Gan Kim Yong, Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry.

The final of the Singapore-India Hackathon 2023 was held as part of India's G20 Presidency in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in which Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong also participated in the award distribution ceremony.

The top student prize was conferred to students of Nanyang Technological University, Amity University, and Dwarkadas College of Engineering, who developed a tool to help regulators detect potential suspects of insider trading.

Extract from an article by Chintan Vaishnav (Director, Atal Innovation Mission) published in "The Grand Success of G20 Bharat Presidency" by RIS.

Content provided by the High Commission of the Republic of India in Singapore

One Thought. One Republic.

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 75th Republic Day, let us pause and reflect on the incredible progress our nation has achieved and how we as a people have kept the spirit of a true republic alive.

The Adani Group is proud and committed to contribute towards building and growing our nation with goodness.

This Republic Day, let's unite in pledging to take India to greater heights.

Here's wishing every Indian a joyous Republic Day from the Adani Group.

Artistic representation of the Indian flag.

India's Silicon Ascent - Establishing Resilience through Partnership

Semiconductors: Integral to Modern Society

Semiconductors serve as the foundation of modern technology, powering all electronic devices. The industry has rapidly expanded in recent years to meet market demands, driven by advancements like cloud computing, AI, and 5G deployment.

The global semiconductor market, valued at US\$574 Bn in 2022, is projected to grow to US\$1 Tn by 2030. To address this surge, 96 new fabrication units are coming online worldwide.

Decoding the Complex Semiconductor Supply Chain

Although semiconductors are widely integrated into all levels of society across borders, their manufacturing is heavily concentrated in specific geographies because of the complexity of their supply chain.

The complex and capital-intensive nature of this supply chain emphasises the challenge for any one country to independently sustain an integrated ecosystem. Additionally, the recent geopolitical tensions and the COVID outbreak highlight the vulnerability of existing global supply chains, leading to a widespread push to de-risk and diversify manufacturing.

Thus, nations must identify their strengths and forge partnerships to create trusted and resilient supply chains for the world.

India's Multi-Pronged Approach to Semiconductor Success

While this is certainly not India's first attempt at establishing a semiconductor manufacturing footprint in the country, it is its most promising. India has embraced its lessons from past attempts, recalibrated strategies, and is actively addressing persistent challenges to establish a robust and resilient semiconductor manufacturing supply chain.

Competitive Incentive Mechanism

Recognising the crucial role of semiconductor manufacturing, the current government leadership, led by industry pioneers, has launched the Semicon India Program.

This initiative, with a budget exceeding US\$10 Bn, provides comprehensive incentives across the entire supply chain, covering chip design, fabrication, and ATMP. The programme includes significant fiscal incentives of 50% of the eligible project cost as an upfront incentive for fabs and ATMPs.

Coupled with subsidies from State Governments for CapEx, land, and utilities, India offers a cumulative incentive of ~70% for establishing semiconductor facilities in the country.

Ecosystem Creation

The government understands the critical importance of establishing a robust local ecosystem for semiconductor-grade bulk gases, chemicals, and raw materials to ensure on-time supply for manufacturing.

Similarly, equipment repair and maintenance are necessary for the smooth operations of any facility. India's existing chemical and part/component ecosystem can be upgraded by leveraging existing attractive incentive packages offered by central and state governments, either via JV collaborations or by setting up new units.

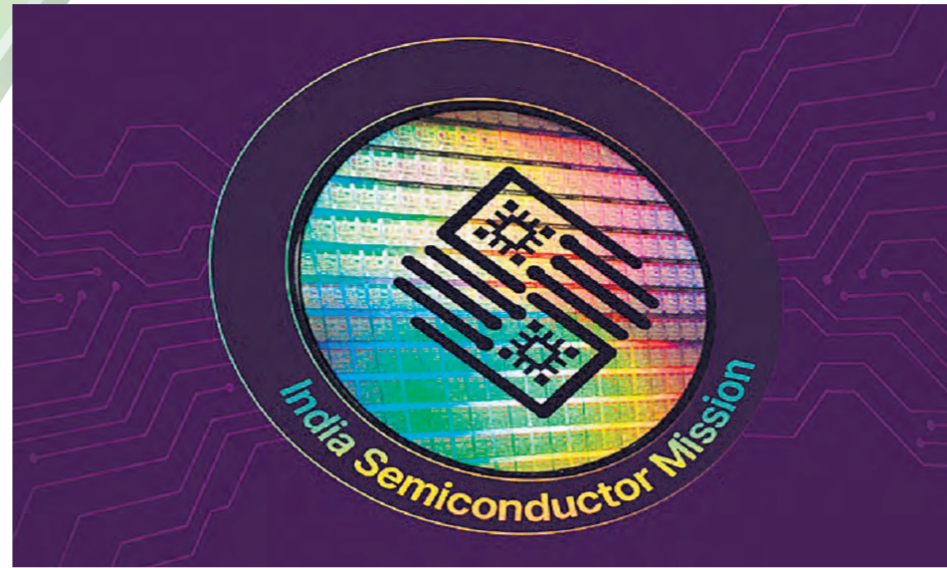
Domestic Design Companies

India currently houses approximately 20% of the global semiconductor design engineers, mostly in the large-scale R&D, and design centres of global majors including AMD, Intel, Qualcomm, Nvidia, etc.

However, to bolster local champions, the Design Linked Incentive was released to nurture 100 Indian startups with fiscal incentives and access to EDA tools. The policy has seen numerous approved applicants who are building sophisticated semiconductor designs across microcontroller ICs for industrial, and space applications, and SoCs for automotive, 5G, and IoT. This scheme will have the added impact of aggregating demand for a local fab, supporting its optimal utilisation.

Trusted Long-term Partnerships

Recognising the global and interconnected nature of chip manufacturing, India has forged strategic partnerships with like-minded countries to build resilience. India has signed Memorandums of Cooperation with Japan for technology partnerships in capital equipment and raw



material sourcing, and with the European Union for R&D, talent development, and market access. India identified semiconductor supply chain collaboration as a key aspect of the Initiative of Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET) agreement with the USA.

These alliances will enable nations to harness each other's strengths, foster collective success and create trusted long-term partnerships.

Skilled Workforce

The government prioritises industry-academia partnerships to develop a workforce ready for semiconductor design and manufacturing. India aims to train 85,000 skilled professionals by 2027, contributing to the semiconductor value chain.

These engineers will address workforce needs not only for India's semiconductor facilities but also for the 96 new fabs and additional ATMP units being set up globally. Up to 2.5% of the Semicon India Program budget is allocated to meet R&D, skill development, and training requirements in the Indian semiconductor ecosystem.

Sustainability in Manufacturing

India, ranked 4th globally in renewable energy capacity at 172 GW, is set to reach 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030. This positions India as an attractive destination for semiconductor manufacturing, aligning with the net-zero commitments

of major customers (fabs consume ~100 MW/hour). India's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 enhances its appeal amid growing sustainability concerns.

Infrastructure Development

India is channelling a substantial US\$1.4 Tn into nationwide infrastructure development, focusing on expanding connectivity through new roadways, increasing the number of airports, and port modernisation.

Leveraging GIS data and analytics, efforts are directed at enhancing multimodal connectivity and reducing lead times. Utilising technologies like RFID and IoT for cargo tracking has already reduced the national average cargo dwell time in ports to 2.6 days, with further reductions anticipated in the future.

This unified approach heralds a promising era, positioning India at the forefront of global semiconductor innovation and production.

Key Milestones in India's Semiconductor Story

India's foray into semiconductors has yielded significant achievements, fostering trust among global and local corporations.

Micron, a market leader in memory, is investing US\$825 Mn to build India's first advanced semiconductor ATMP unit in Gujarat. The government is also supporting Micron's supply chain partners

in their India manufacturing journey by providing necessary infrastructure and incentive support.

Applied Materials, one of the world's largest semiconductor capital equipment manufacturers, committed US\$400 Mn to build a collaborative R&D centre in Karnataka, with their global supply chain partners establishing new facilities, for faster innovations in cutting-edge semiconductor equipment design and prototyping.

AMD, a marquee fabless company, is investing US\$400 Mn to set up a new design centre for R&D and engineering in Karnataka.

Lam Research, a marquee semiconductor capital equipment manufacturer, has committed to training up to 60,000 semiconductor engineers using a virtual nanofabrication environment. This will fuel not only India's but also the global semiconductor workforce requirements.

Finally, we are seeing domestic champions for semiconductors rise in India, including Polymatech, Sahasra, and Kaynes Technology, all of whom have solidified their semiconductor manufacturing plans and are establishing OSAT units across the country to cater to domestic demand in India and exports.

The Road Ahead

With a burgeoning pool of skilled professionals, a growing emphasis on building a local ecosystem, and proactive government initiatives, India has the potential to offer a reliable and competitive environment for semiconductor manufacturing and innovation.

As global demand for diversification continues to rise, India's proactive efforts will position the country as a trusted partner, contributing not only to its semiconductor ecosystem but also fostering economic growth and technological leadership on a global stage.

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Congratulations to India on its 75th Republic Day

At PSA India, we are committed to advancing global trade and we offer an extensive range of services that comprises four seaports and two container freight stations.

We remain dedicated to driving sustainable growth and supply chain resilience worldwide, further bolstered by the launch of our Port+ solutions for seamless multi-modal cargo movement.

In collaboration with our partners in India, PSA aspires to be the leader in sustainable supply chain solutions, so that you can move the world!

PSA India, 25 years Alongside India, Accelerating India



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Exploring Frontiers: The Marvel of ISRO

On January 1, 2024, the inaugural day of the new year, ISRO accomplished yet another milestone by successfully launching XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite). With this launch, India has become the second country after the United States to send an observatory in space to study black holes and neutron stars

From the inception of the Indian space programme, we have consistently pushed the boundaries of space exploration and achieved significant milestones in this domain. These accomplishments have catapulted the nation onto the global centre stage. From Chandrayaan missions to the Moon, Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan), and Aditya L1's solar exploration, India has shown that the sky is not the limit; it's just the beginning.

Over nearly six decades, India's space programme has evolved from relying on foreign launch vehicles to becoming fully self-reliant with indigenous launch capabilities. India has not only developed the capacity to launch its satellites, but has also extended its services to launch satellites for other countries.

So far, India has launched 424 foreign satellites, with more than 90% (389) launched in the last nine years. The top three beneficiaries of India's international cooperation in this sector are the USA (231), the UK (86), and Singapore (20). On 30 July 2023, seven Singapore-made satellites were launched successfully by India into their intended orbits taking the total count to 20. All seven satellites were successfully injected into their orbits less than 24 minutes after the lift-off.

With the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission launched on 14 July 2023, India's space agency, ISRO, has etched its name in the annals of space exploration. India is only the fourth country in history to have soft-landed a spacecraft on the moon, and the first to have done so in the moon's South Polar region.

Our achievements reach beyond the

lunar surface. India's Mars Orbiter Mission, unofficially known as Mangalyaan, showcased our ability to reach the Red Planet on our maiden attempt. The Mangalyaan spacecraft successfully entered Mars orbit on September 23, 2014, making ISRO the first Asian and the fourth country in the world to do so, achieving this feat with unparalleled cost-effectiveness.

Just as we celebrated the achievements of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, ISRO launched the Aditya L1 Mission. This mission seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the sun from a unique vantage point approximately 1.5 million kilometres away from Earth, allowing for continuous and uninterrupted study of the sun. On 6 January 2024, it entered the sun's orbit after a four-month journey and positioned itself at Lagrange Point 1, becoming first Asian country to do so.

Following its successful missions to explore the sun and the moon, ISRO has an array of exciting future endeavours. It is now setting its sights on the second most scorching planet in our solar system, Venus.

Shukrayaan-1, ISRO's upcoming spacecraft, will probably be launched by the end of December 2024. Our scientists and engineers have meticulously crafted Shukrayaan-1 to withstand the extreme conditions of Venus and to operate under the most challenging circumstances.

ISRO's journey into space exploration has been nothing short of extraordinary. The space research activities were initiated in India during the early 1960s, when applications using satellites were in experimental stages even in the United States. With the live transmission of the

Tokyo Olympic Games across the Pacific by the American Satellite

'Syncom-3' demonstrating the power of communication satellites, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the founding father of the Indian space programme, quickly recognised the benefits of space technologies for India.

As Director, Physical Research Laboratory located in Ahmedabad, Dr. Sarabhai convened an army of able and brilliant scientists, anthropologists, communicators, and social scientists from all corners of the country to spearhead the Indian space programme.

Thus, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in August 1969. Currently, ISRO operates as the primary research and development arm of the Department of Space (DoS), directly overseen by the Prime Minister of India.

ISRO achievements in reaching uncharted territories in space have garnered international attention. What truly sets ISRO apart, however, is its ability to achieve these remarkable feats at a fraction of the cost compared to some of the world's other major space agencies, such as NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).

Emphasis on indigenisation of critical components and reducing



Chandrayaan-3 launched on 14 July 2023 by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

reliance on imports has been a critical aspect of its cost-effective approach and has indeed sparked discussions within the international space community.

Taking a giant leap toward a brighter, more innovative, and economically robust future in space exploration, the Indian Space Policy of 2023 welcomes private enterprises into the realm of space exploration. It acknowledges that the private sector possesses the innovative spark, entrepreneurial spirit, and financial

acumen to propel India's space ambitions to greater heights. The implications of this decision are profound. India's journey in space exploration is indeed a matter of national pride.

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Global Schools Foundation

Congratulations India on your

75TH REPUBLIC DAY

Kudos to the **'Mother of Democracy'** for taking long strides towards progress in the 21st century. India's journey is an inspiration to Global Schools Foundation (GSF), which aspires to be a leader in the education sector.

India's belief in 'the world being one big family' strongly resonates with GSF as we expand our reach from Singapore to 11 other countries including in the UK, Middle East and Asia.

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CELEBRATING INDIA'S 75th REPUBLIC DAY

LiFE - LIFESTYLE FOR ENVIRONMENT

LiFE, Lifestyle for Environment was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at COP26 in Glasgow on 1st November 2021 in India's National Statement

The underlying philosophy of LiFE has its roots in India's ancient saying which means that "Nature protects if she is protected". The same has been inscribed as the motto on the seal of India's Ministry for the Environment, Forest and Climate Change. LiFE aims to promote globally the practice of a lifestyle that is synchronous with nature and does not harm it, by individuals and communities. It proposes to bring about a fundamental change in both the way we produce and the way we consume. India has updated the first of its Nationally Determined Conclusions to include LiFE as follows: "India will put forward and propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on its traditions and the values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for LiFE, as a key to combating climate change".

Subsequently India's Prime Minister, in his address to the World Economic Forum 2022, referring to India's commitment to combating climate change, further elaborated on this theme.

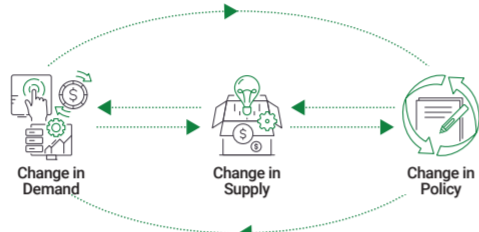
"Throw away" culture and consumerism have made the climate challenge more serious. It is very important to rapidly shift today's 'take-make-use-dispose', economy towards a circular economy. The same spirit is at the core of the idea of Mission LiFE that I discussed at COP26. LiFE - means Lifestyle for Environment, a vision of such a Resilient and Sustainable Lifestyle that will be useful in not only dealing with Climate Crisis but also with futuristic unpredictable challenges. Therefore, it is important to transform Mission LiFE into a global mass movement. A public participation campaign like LiFE can be made into a big base for, P-3 'Pro Planet People'".

Mission LiFE was launched by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, India on October 20, 2022 as a global initiative to combat climate change and make it a people's movement across the world.

Three Core Shifts in Mission LiFE

As a global programme, Mission LiFE envisions three core shifts in our collective approach towards sustainability. These are:

- Change in Demand (Phase I): Nudging individuals across the world to practise simple yet effective environment-friendly actions in their daily lives.
- Change in Supply (Phase II): Changes in large-scale individual demand are expected to gradually nudge industries and markets to respond and tailor supply and procurement as per the revised demands.



- Change in Policy (Phase III): By influencing the demand and supply dynamics of India and the world, the long-term vision of Mission LiFE is to trigger shifts in large-scale industrial and government policies that can support both sustainable consumption and production.

Inter-relationship between three Core Shifts in Mission LiFE

LiFE and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs, focused on sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), climate change (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), and life under water (SDG 14), all promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Furthermore, bold environmental action could create large scale employment by 2030 (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). SDG 12 entails decoupling economic growth and environmental degradation and demands more efficient and environmentally friendly management of resources, including improving energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, access to basic services, and providing green and decent jobs to ensure a better quality of life for all. The societal responsibility towards SDG 12 goes beyond businesses, to involve



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched Mission LiFE on October 20 in Gujarat, India

individual consumers as active participants in the process of achieving this goal. Given the global commitment to achieving the SDGs by 2030, it is important to note that Mission LiFE contributes directly and indirectly to almost all the SDGs.

Impact of Collective Action - Lifestyle for Environment

Taking LiFE forward as a global mission, India has, in a global call for ideas and papers, invited Ideas and research proposals from leading global scholars on how environment-friendly actions can be adopted by individuals, communities and institutions in a measurable and attributable manner. Partnering with other countries, MoEFCC and the Ministry of External Affairs, with the support of NITI Aayog, will coordinate efforts to continually identify and build capacity of countries worldwide to implement Mission LiFE for their respective populations.

Preparing a LiFE Compendium of Global Best and Traditional Practices, the NITI Aayog and MoEFCC, in partnership with United Nations India, will create a comprehensive repository of traditional and contemporary best practices from around the world that facilitate the adoption of environment-friendly lifestyles by individuals and communities.

Source - Extract from India's Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy Submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2023

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration adopted the principles of Mission LiFE as follows -

Mainstreaming Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE)

Based on the G20 High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development, we commit to robust collective actions that will enable the world to embrace sustainable production and consumption patterns and mainstream Lifestyles for Sustainable Development. Relevant studies on it show that it could contribute to significant emission reduction by 2030 for a global net-zero future. We support the creation of an enabling policy environment to promote sustainable lifestyles for climate action. Towards this end, we:

- Commit to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development.
- Support the implementation of the High-Level Principles (HLPs) through international cooperation, financial support, and development, deployment and dissemination of technology. We encourage International Organisations to incorporate the HLPs into their programmes, as appropriate.
- Note the launch of "Travel for LiFE" and support the development of smart destinations that are responsible and sustainable.

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TASTE OF INDIA



Hidden gems of Northeast India

Nestled in the eastern corner of India, the Northeast region is a treasure trove of natural beauty, diverse cultures, and unexplored wonders. While popular destinations like Meghalaya's living root bridges and Assam's Kaziranga National Park often steal the limelight, there are several hidden gems in this region that deserve equal attention. We unveil here eight lesser-known yet enchanting destinations in Northeast India that should be on every traveller's radar. From pristine landscapes to vibrant tribal cultures, these hidden gems offer a unique and offbeat travel experience



Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh: Tucked away in the picturesque valleys of Arunachal Pradesh, Ziro is a serene paradise for nature lovers and culture enthusiasts. Explore the verdant paddy fields, interact with the Apatani tribe known for their unique facial tattoos and nose plugs, and



Ziro district in Arunachal Pradesh is a plateau amongst high hills

Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram: For wildlife enthusiasts, the Dampa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram offers an offbeat adventure. This lesser-known reserve is home to several endangered species, including the Bengal tiger, clouded leopard, and hoolock gibbon. Embark on thrilling jungle safaris,

hike through dense forests, and witness the cascading Vantawng Falls. The tranquility and rich biodiversity of Dampa Tiger Reserve makes it a hidden gem for nature lovers.

Khonoma, Nagaland: Discover the sustainable village of Khonoma, nestled amidst the Naga hills. This picturesque village is renowned for its conservation efforts and community-based tourism initiatives. Immerse yourself in the rich Naga culture, interact with the Angami tribe, and witness their vibrant festivals and traditional crafts. Embark on guided walks to explore the lush terraced fields, visit the Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary, and learn about the

village's remarkable history of sustainability.

Shnongpdeng, Meghalaya: Escape to the untouched beauty of this riverside village which offers breathtaking views of the crystal-clear Umngot River, known as the "Cleanest River in India." Engage in water activities like boating and river tubing, hike to the nearby Krang Suri Waterfalls, and experience the warm hospitality of the local Khasi community. Camping on the riverbanks and witnessing the sunrise over the serene waters is an experience not to be missed.



Crystal clear waters of Umngot river of Meghalaya

witness vibrant festivals like the Ziro Music Festival. Embark on scenic hikes to Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, where you can spot a variety of flora and fauna, including the rare Himalayan palm civet.

Majuli, Assam: Floating in the Brahmaputra River, Majuli is the world's largest river island and a hidden gem of Assam. This idyllic island is a hub of neo-Vaishnavite culture, with ancient monasteries called satras preserving traditional dance, music, and art forms. Immerse yourself in the serene ambiance, witness traditional mask-making and pottery, and enjoy soulful Borgeet (devotional songs) performances. Birdwatchers will also be delighted by the diverse avian species found in Majuli.

Mawlynnong, Meghalaya: Known as the "Cleanest Village in Asia," Mawlynnong is a pristine paradise in Meghalaya. Marvel at the meticulously maintained gardens, traverse the sky-high living root bridges in nearby Riwai village and take in the breathtaking views from the bamboo watchtower. Experience the warm hospitality of the Khasi tribe, indulge in traditional Meghalayan cuisine, and explore the nearby Balancing Rock – a fascinating natural wonder.



Roots Bridge in Mawlynnong, Meghalaya are devoid of any brick, steel or mortar

Dzukou Valley, Nagaland: Tucked between the borders of Nagaland and Manipur, Dzukou Valley is a hidden gem for trekkers and nature enthusiasts. The valley blooms with vibrant flowers during the monsoon and winter seasons, offering a mesmerising spectacle. Trek through lush green forests, camp under the starry sky, and witness the panoramic views from the Japfu Peak. Dzukou Valley's untouched beauty and tranquility make it an ideal escape from the bustling world.



Dzukou Valley in Nagaland

Unakoti, Tripura: Unakoti, meaning "one less than 10 million," is a mystical archaeological site in Tripura. It is renowned for its rock-cut sculptures and murals dating back to the 7th-9th centuries. Explore the vast expanse of carved stone idols and bas-reliefs depicting Hindu mythological figures like Lord Shiva and Goddess Durga. Unakoti also hosts the Ashokastami Festival, where devotees gather to seek blessings and celebrate the legends associated with the site.

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75th

REPUBLIC Day

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We extend our Heartfelt Congratulations to the Government and the people of the Republic of India as the Nation celebrates 75th Republic Day.

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<p>Green Hydrogen Renewable Energy (Vijayanagar) Limited, Karnataka</p>	<p>Compressed Bio-Gas Plant, Shell</p>	<p>Micron, Sanand, Ahmedabad, Gujarat</p>	<p>Statue of Unity, Gujarat</p>
<p>EPCM for Continental Automotive Powertrain, Pune</p>	<p>EPCM delivery of retail fuel stations for multiple clients</p>	<p>SAS iTower, Hyderabad</p>	<p>Statue of Oneness, Madhya Pradesh</p>
<p>Smart Airport city Preliminary Design, Feasibility Studies</p>	<p>Bhogapuram International Airport</p>	<p>Vadnagar Archaeological Museum, Gujarat</p>	<p>Greater Bangalore Water Supply Project (Phase-I & II)</p>