

ANNUAL PUBLICATION

TRANSCEND

OF HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, FIJI



क्षेत्रीय हिंदी सम्मेलन
25 जनवरी 2020, सूवा, फीजी

Regional Hindi Conference
25 January 2020, Suva, Fiji

HINDI IN PACIFIC

Report on Historical
Regional Hindi
Conference in Suva, Fiji

SPECIAL FEATURE

First Time in Fiji -
Nationwide Ramayan
Sammelans by Ramayan
Mandalis of Fiji

STATES IN FOCUS

Colourful Destination
Reports on the States of
Bihar, Kerala, Meghalaya
and Rajasthan



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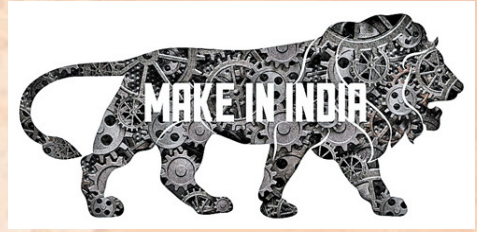
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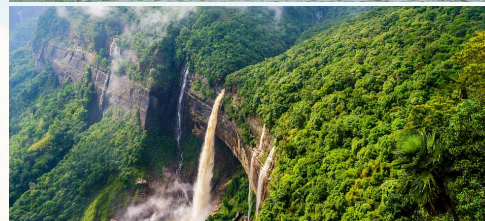
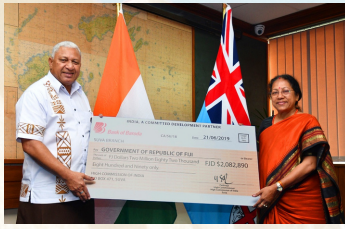
April'19 - March'20

INDIA IN FIJI

NOW RIDES

'MADE IN INDIA'
VEHICLE





CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER	04	SPECIAL FEATURE: RAMAYAN SAMMELANS OF FIJI	15
THE INDIA WAY IN FOREIGN POLICY	05	INDIA: A COMMITTED DEVELOPMENT PARTNER	27
TURNING THE TABLES - AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT	07	OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS	30
COVER STORY - FIRST REGIONAL HINDI SAMMELAN IN FIJI	10	STATES IN FOCUS	35
		INDIAN PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS IN FIJI	53

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Message from

HIGH COMMISSIONER

It is a mixed bag of feelings today as we present this fourth edition of our annual publication - Transcend. As I write this message, the world has changed so drastically in these last few months that many of the pictures and account of the events that this publication presents seem so far away in a distant past.

It is a matter of satisfaction that before the COVID19 pandemic and social distancing restrictions, we had already made some significant strides in Fiji and in the other six Pacific island countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) touching upon the important facets of India's bilateral relationship with these seven Big Ocean countries. Apart from high-level exchanges, the people-to-people contacts and focus on cultural linkages came to the fore.

This publication is also a testament to India's lasting partnerships in the region as a committed development partner as we continue to work together to fight the twin challenge of COVID19 as well as natural disasters such as TC Harold.

Compliments to the Governments in all seven countries for their splendid success in containing COVID19 and keeping most of the region COVID-free or better expressed as COVID-contained.

As I complete my tour of duty in Fiji on 31 August 2020 and head back home, I convey my best wishes to all readers in their endeavours. I shall cherish the time spent in Fiji and the wonderful memories which this publication has covered so vividly.

Dhanyawaad, Phir Milenge! Vinaka Vakalevu & Moce Mada!

Padmaja



The India Way in Foreign Policy

By Manish Chand



Purposeful, Pragmatic, and Proactive. Shaper, not an abstainer; stabiliser, rather than a disruptor; a net security provider and a dispenser of global good. India's foreign policy has found a new vocabulary and framework, as articulated with masterly precision by the country's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the 5th edition of the Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi.

In foreign policy words matter, and hence this new lexicon of a rising India fittingly encapsulates the current form and trajectory of the country's foreign policy in a world undergoing unprecedented transformation. Purposeful pursuit of national interests, pragmatic issue-based alignments with countries, big and small, and proactive diplomatic outreach have come to characterise and configure India's foreign policy and diplomacy in the 21st century. Powering diverse strands of India's foreign policy is the overarching goal of transforming lives of over 1.3 billion people living in the country and spurring the country's rise as a leading power in an increasingly multipolar world.

Shaper & Stabiliser

A new India is emerging in the second decade of the 21st century, which is proactively shaping the international agenda on a wide array of cross-cutting issues, including climate change, sustainable development, counter-terrorism, maritime security and the reconfiguration of global governance architecture. This new India, with its around \$3 trillion economy and surging aspirations of over 1.3 billion people, is poised to reclaim its place under the global sun. In a wide-ranging conversation on The India Way at the Raisina Dialogue, Dr Jaishankar illuminated key features of a new foreign policy for a new India.



As Dr Jaishankar puts it: "The India way would be really Brand India. Brand India in terms of what is unique to us as a power".



“The India way would be to be more of a decider or a shaper rather than an abstainer,” he said while stressing that India has made a difference in the last few years on issues like climate change or connectivity. Most important, he fleshed out the kind of power India will be in the next few years. “It is not the India way to be a disruptionist power internationally, we should be a stabilizing power. It’s also not the India way to be self-centred and to be mercantilist. The India way would be a country which brings its capacities to bear on the international system for global good,” he said.

Driven by the ethos of mutual empowerment, India has shared funds, technology and expertise with countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Diplomatic Outreach

As India’s global stature rises, the Indian government has also embarked on an unprecedented diplomatic outreach to mobilise global support for national resurgence. Cutting across hemispheres, the last few years have seen a record number of high-level incoming and outgoing visits at the level of President, Prime Minister, Vice-President, External Affairs Minister and ministers. PM Modi alone has travelled to over 70 countries in the last five and a half years. In an evolving multipolar world, India has chosen the path of multi-alignment which entails forging issues-based alignments with like-minded countries and major power centres, without getting into ‘us versus them’ zero sum games.

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon. EAM with H.E. Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security of Fiji at New York on 24 Sep 2019

In foreign policy words matter, and hence this new lexicon of a rising India fittingly encapsulates the current form and trajectory of the country’s foreign policy in a world undergoing unprecedented transformation. Purposeful pursuit of national interests, pragmatic issue-based alignments with countries, big and small, and proactive diplomatic outreach have come to characterise and configure India’s foreign policy and diplomacy in the 21st century. Powering diverse strands of India’s foreign policy is the overarching goal of transforming lives of over 1.3 billion people living in the country and spurring the country’s rise as a leading power in an increasingly multipolar world.

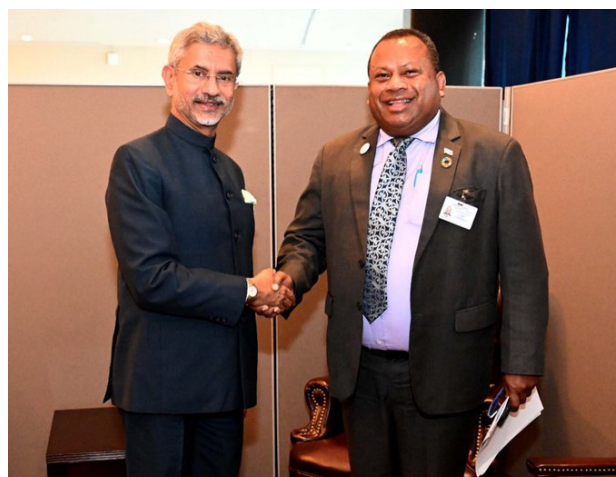
Brand India

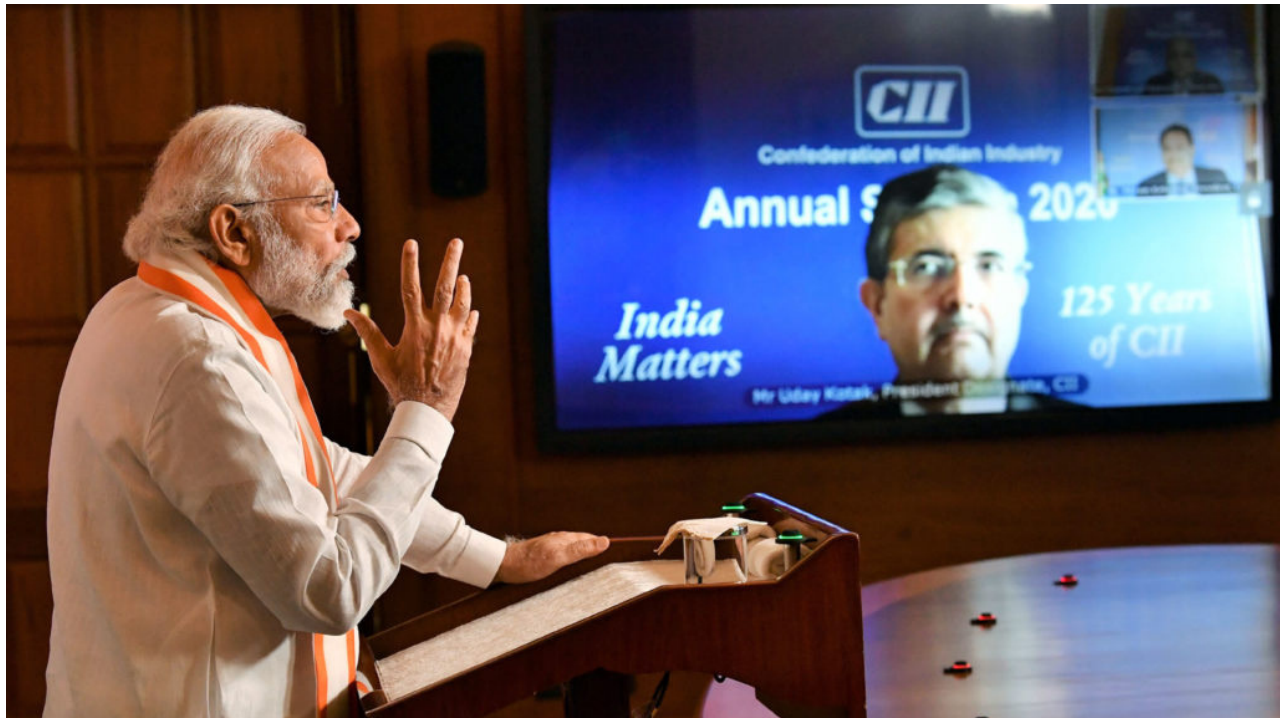
In mapping the way ahead, cultural diplomacy and civilizational values will acquire a greater salience in India’s foreign policy. Home to all major religions and diverse cultures, the idea of India as a vibrant pluralistic society has struck a chord making the world more amenable to India’s aspirations. This cultural connect is reflected in myriad ways, ranging from the worldwide celebrations of the International Day of Yoga and the designation of Kumbh Mela as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

In building a New India, the 25-million strong Indian diaspora, spread across different countries and continents, will play an important role. As Dr Jaishankar puts it: “The India way would be really Brand India. Brand India in terms of what is unique to us as a power,” he said while alluding to the extraordinary Indian diaspora and Indian culture and heritage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has encapsulated the essence of Brand India.

“All our endeavours are centered on 1.3 billion Indians. But the dreams that these efforts are trying to fulfil, are the same dreams that the entire world has, that every country has, and that every society has. The efforts are ours, but their fruits are for all, for the entire world,” said PM Modi said in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York last year.

Going forward, as it scripts its global ascent on its own terms, India will have to relentlessly assert its strategic autonomy as it navigates geopolitical rivalries to make independent decisions that benefit people of the country. This will entail dovetailing diplomacy with development and interweaving foreign policy with an unclouded vision of India as a leading power with a unique voice and narrative in a rapidly transforming world order.





Turning the Tables

By Vinayak Surya Swami



As the country tackles the spread of COVID-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has advocated a push towards making India self-reliant through a series of measures and economic relief packages. With the advent of the Novel Coronavirus pandemic, a new world economic order is emerging and nations are just coming to terms with it. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has been quick in this realisation and has accordingly altered existing policies and introduced several multi-sectoral initiatives to further the vision of a thriving economy for India. Reaffirming his belief, in a recent address, he said, "Howsoever big the crisis might be, India is determined to turn it into an opportunity." He then called upon the nation for its support in this regard by making India "Aatma Nirbhar" or Self Reliant.

PM Modi also announced a relief package of INR 20 Trillion (equivalent to 10 per cent of India's GDP) that will steer the country onto the path of rapid development and growth, and create a robust local supply chain. India's plan for self-reliance is intended to be a two pronged approach. The first step will be the undertaking of interim measures such as liquidity infusion and direct cash transfers to migrant workers and daily-wage earners. The second facet would be long-term reforms in growth-critical sectors that will make them globally competitive and attractive. According to the Prime Minister's vision, a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars: 'economy', that introduces quantum jump; 'infrastructure' in tune with the new India, a 'system' based on 21st century technology; India's 'vibrant demography'; and 'demand', which will utilise our requirement and supply chain to full capacity.

Starting right

PM Modi's vision of a capable, efficient and self-reliant nation, has quickly been realised and introduced as the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India) initiative. Some immediate reforms are now being factored into policy making decisions to bolster domestic capabilities and upscale production. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (ANBA) is focussed towards building entire value chains for domestic products that will enable local manufacturers to thrive and reduce the need for imports. The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has already identified key sectors followed by measures to boost competitiveness, simplify procedures and encourage direct investments.

“Holistic approach

The ANBA has identified the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector, with its significant contributions to the GDP, exports and employment ratio as the core area for economic revival and competence. As a start, a more inclusive definition has been announced to bring a larger group of small- scale industries under the purview of the beneficial reforms and extend the cover for existing businesses allowing them to grow under the same canopy.

Over 500 million entities will be empowered to restart operations and get back on their feet with momentous reforms for the MSME sector. These include the introduction of collateral free loans (total of INR 3,000 billion), INR 200 Billion in subordinate loans for reviving businesses and a significant infusion of almost INR 500 billion in the sector through several new funds being set up.

Equal opportunities

With an aim to boost domestic production and expand quality exports, the MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India) scheme is poised to be replaced by the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exports scheme (RDTEP), to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and costs associated with exporting goods produced in India. The government aims to extend these benefits to entities with a capability of generating employment in the country as well. The export sector and domestic production will also benefit from the proposed reenvisioning of the existing costs associated with manufacturing.

The lowered taxes on exporting goods across borders in addition to the imposition of anti-dumping duties on imports will provide a level playing field to domestic manufacturers. A reform aimed towards increasing production potential locally and to ease the process of exports while simultaneously reducing the dependence on foreign products.

The new vision

The start-up segment of the Indian space sector has been added as a direct beneficiary for the use of facilities and premier infrastructure of the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), India's state-run space agency. The move has come as an addition to ISRO's "technology transfer" initiative that provides new-age tech to private and state-run entities towards the betterment of Indian industry. The defense industry will also benefit from the freeing-up of the space sector. When it comes to innovative advances towards new-age technology, the pandemic, and the new reforms, will act as a catalyst for development.

Moreover, this move will also allow for an opportunity for DSRO (Defence Space Research Organisation), India's new defence oriented space agency, to become a nodal authority for positive outreach with space start-ups. The government has also drawn up a new policy for privatisation of Public Sector Enterprise (PSEs) to boost public-private partnerships, which will soon be notified to the concerned sectors.

A stoic defence

In a major highlight, the ANBA has also been extended to India's defence sector. The FDI (foreign direct investment) cap has been raised to 74% from the existing 49%. This will enable domestic manufacturers to source and utilise critical technologies that will help in the much needed modernisation and revamp of the production process.



The OFB (Ordinance Factory Board), a 200-year-old organisation will undergo corporatisation to make manufacturing autonomous, boost efficiency and increase accountability. In this reconstruction, one or multiple corporations will be added into the 41 factories currently falling under the OFB.

Back to basics

Special attention has been paid to the agriculture sector with its position as India's largest livelihood provider and a significant contributor to the country's GDP. In a first, the sector has been considered at par with the industries in India, and the government, under the ANBA has announced a stream of pioneering reforms aimed towards empowering farmers across India. Going forward, there will be minimal hindrance arising from trade and licensing agreements, thereby allowing farmers to easily accomplish business transcending state lines.

Millions of farmers will directly benefit from the INR 300 billion additional emergency working capital to stabilise production in these testing times.

With a INR 100 billion capital infusion, Mirco Food Enterprises will now be provided technological benefits in clusters (mango in UP, saffron in J&K, bamboo shoots in the Northeast, chilli in Andhra Pradesh etc.) to standardised quality and production as per FASSAI norms. The products will then be marketed to promote an increase in demand. The list of reforms are also aimed towards utilising the surplus of agricultural commodities with amendments to the Essential Commodities Act, made to ensure adequate supply in times of scarcity.

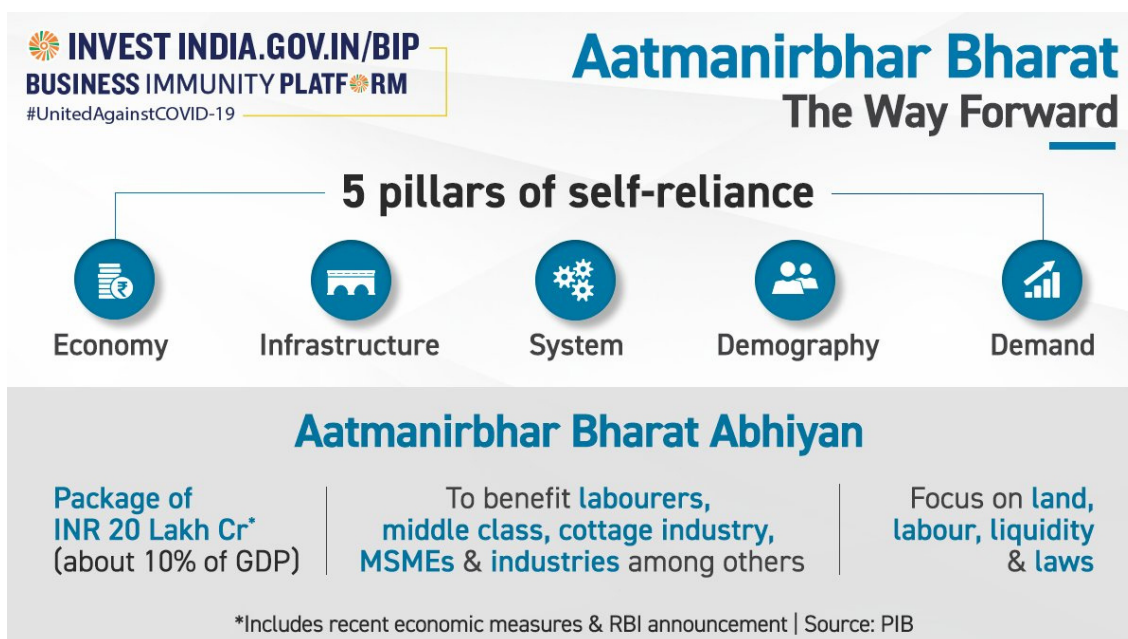
These amendments, by utilising the surplus and by providing a subsidy for the transport to deficient markets will create a secure supply/demand chain and protect the interest of Indian farmers. PM Modi had very recently quoted Swami Vivekananda and urged Indians to use indigenous products and to promote Indian products in global markets, furthering his idea of "Vocal for Local."

India needs to simultaneously boost authentic exports in order to carve a niche out for itself in the emerging world order.

An effort which will not only fast track our journey to become a USD 5 trillion economy, but will also ensure that Indian interests are safeguarded in the years to come.

Immediate effect

To boost domestic production, the government has imposed an import ban on radial and pneumatic tyres used in two and four wheelers. Global tenders of upto INR 2 billion will be restricted to boost production through MSMEs. INR 20 billion for fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Yojana (PMGKRY), an INR 50 billion scheme to create jobs for the thousands of migrant workers affected due to the COVID-19 crisis. Restrictions on import of incense sticks, bamboo products and odoriferous preparations. An import ban on specific lists of weapons/platforms to be notified on year-wise timelines to boost indigenisation and domestic production. The imposition of an anti-dumping duty on specific steel products to ensure cheap imports does not disrupt domestic production.



Cover Story



First Regional Hindi
Conference in Fiji



High Commissioner and Director General, ICCR with Fijian Dignitaries

First Regional Hindi Conference in Fiji



The High Commission of India organized the first ever Regional Hindi Conference in Fiji for promoting Hindi Language in Fiji at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva from on 25 Jan 2020. High Commissioner, Mrs. Padmaja welcomed the Chief Guest of the event Ambassador Yogesh Karan, Permanent Secretary for Office of the Prime Minister, Sugar Industry, Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Ministers from Government of Fiji present during the programme were Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Mrs Veena Bhatnagar, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Hon. Mr Vijay Nath and Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Maritime Development Hon. Mr Jale Sigarara. This Conference saw the largest-ever gathering of Hindi Teachers in Fiji along with Fijian as well as International Hindi Scholars.

Ambassador Akhilesh Mishra, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations also attended the Conference. Mr Harkesh Meena, DS Hindi, MEA, also attended the Conference.

International Scholars like the Secretary General of World Hindi Secretariat, Mauritius, Prof. Vinod Kumar Mishra, was one of the speakers, along with him were, Mrs Sunita Narayan, President Community Languages Association NZ, Dr. Sandhya Singh, Centre of Language Studies Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, Mrs Priyanka Jain, Founder (Ta cup Prod. HK Ltd , Hong Kong), Dr. Mridul Kirti, Australia, Dr Peter Friedlander, Deputy Director Languages (The Australian National University), Canberra Australia.

The Conference was attended by over 250 delegates. Over 120 Hindi Teachers of Fiji also attended the Conference with great enthusiasm.







International Delegates to Conference



Fijian Delegates Attending the Conference

**SPECIAL
FEATURE**



LAUTOKA LABASA
SEAQAQA
**RAMAYAN
SAMMELANS
OF FIJI**

SUVA NAUSORI





रामायण सम्मेलन RAMAYAN SAMMELAN

Lautoka, Labasa, Suva, Nausori



Nationwide Ramayan Sammelans

There are over 2000 Ramayan Mandalis in Fiji and these mandalis exist in Fiji since the Girit era.

Every Tuesday these mandalis in their respective areas, come together and recite verses of the Ramayan. High Commission of India, Suva in association with local Diaspora associations in Fiji organized Ramayan Sammelans in Fiji. Total of five Ramayan Sammelans were held from the period of November 2019 to March 2020. Two Sammelans were held in Vanua Levu (Labasa and Seaqqa) and three Sammelan in Viti Levu (Lautoka, Suva and Nausori).

The **first** Ramayan Sammelan was organized by Shree Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha Lautoka Branch in association with Fiji Girit Council and supported by High Commission of India at Sanatan Nagar in Lautoka for three days from 28-30 November 2019. Total of 600 people participated in the three day event on an average of 200 devotees per day.

Over 20 Ramayan Mandalis performed in the Sammelan, all participating mandalis were presented with a certificate of participation and Ramacharitamans by Mrs Padmaja, High Commissioner of India.

Following the successful Sammelan in Lautoka, the **second** Ramayan Sammelan was held at Shiv Mandir in Labasa, which was organized and hosted by Hindi Parishad Northern Branch Labasa on 4-6 December 2019. Around 300 people everyday attended the 3 day Ramayan Sammelan. High Commission of India supported the event. High Commissioner Mrs. Padmaja presented all Mandalis with certificate and Ramacharitamans to mandalis. A total of 30 Ramayan Mandalis from Vanua Levu attended the Sammelan with enthusiastic participation from women and children mandalis.

The **third** Ramayan Sammelan was held in rural part of Vanua Levu in Seaqqa from 4-9 March 2020 at Seaqqa Cultural Center which was hosted by Seaqqa Cultural Center and supported by High Commission of India. Total of 15 Ramayan Mandalis participated in the three day event and total of 500 people participated in the 3 day event. Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Attache (Publicity, Political and Culture) represented the Indian High Commissioner to Fiji who was out of the country and presented all the Mandalis with certificates and Ramacharitamans.

"Over 2000 Ramayan Mandalis operate all over Fiji. People gather generally on Tuesdays for recital of Ramacharitmanas."

The **fourth** Ramayan Sammelan was held in Suva at Shiv Mandir, Samabula which was organized by India Fiji Friendship Forum (IFFF) and supported by High Commission of India. About 500 people attended the 3- day Sammelan and a total of 22 Ramayan Mandalis from Lami-Suva – Nausori corridor participated in the Sammelan. Ramacharitamanas and certificates were presented to the participating mandalis by Mr. S. C. Sahoo, Acting Head of Mission.



The **fifth** and final Ramayan Sammelan was held in Nausori, which was organized and hosted by Sanatan Dharam Mahamandal Vunimono from 13-15 March, 2020 at Vunimono Hall. A total of 22 Ramayan Mandalis participated in the event and around 700 people attended the 3-day event. Ramacharitamanas and certificates were presented to the participating mandalis by Mr. S.C. Sahoo, Acting Head of Mission. This was the first time when so many mandalis were congregated all over Fiji to participate in nationwide Ramayan Sammelan.



What is a Mandali?

A “Mandali” is a group of 8-10 members, could be even more, with one “Pracharak” in the lead who recites the verses from Ramacharitmanas and also explains the meaning and teachings to the audiences. A Mandali is generally registered with its umbrella organisation. However, there are many local unregistered Mandalis also at village and community levels – sometimes more than one Mandali operates in same village. There are Mahila (women) Mandalis and Baal (children) Mandalis also.

Historical Perspective:

About a hundred and forty years ago when the first Girmityas were brought to Fiji to toil in sugarcane farms under British Indenture Labour system, some of them brought Ramacharitmanas with them for spiritual refuge during the long and hard ordeal that awaited them in a far off foreign land. Since there were no temples at the time, the community used to gather informally to recite Ramyana.

Gradually, small groups were formed which started reciting Ramayana on Tuesdays with whatever basic instruments available. With the passage of time, this tradition has stayed with the community even after Girmit System ended and today, there are over 2000 Ramayan Mandalis all over Fiji.

Apart from a ‘spiritual refuge’ after a hard day of labour, these gatherings also provided a sense of togetherness fostering unity among the Girmityas. It was a platform where one could mingle with fellow-Girmityas from his motherland and share their joys and sorrows. So, in a way, hosting a Ramayan Mandali was in many ways akin to hosting a “Chaupal” (community centres in rural India) of sorts.

Local Talent: There have been Ramayan Sammelans in the past in Fiji with artists invited from overseas. However, these Ramayan Sammelans were all organized by local organizations with 100% participation of local Mandalis in various parts of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in Fiji. This was indeed one of its kind, grassroots-level initiative. Many in audience were pleasantly surprised by the number of Mahila and Baal Mandalis.



Sanjay Kumar
Attache (Political, Publicity & Culture)

It was a great learning experience to help organize and document these Sammelans all over Fiji. Indeed, as one Mandali member told me once, these gatherings were the Girmit-era Facebook or Twitter for the community.

The **challenge** is to prepare the next crop of Mandalis and ‘pracharaks’ whom the baton could be passed on. It was, therefore, heartening to see many children participate in these Sammelans through Baal Mandalis.



“ It was a great learning experience to help organize and document these Sammelans all over Fiji. Indeed, as one Mandali member told me once, these gatherings were the Girmit-era Facebook or Twitter for the community. ”



Lautoka Sammelan

Organised by Shree Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha Lautoka Branch in association with Fiji Girmit Council and supported by High Commission of India at Sanatan Nagar in Lautoka for three days from 28-30 November 2019.



Labasa Sammelan



Seaqqa Sammeln



Suva Sammelan



NAUSORI SAMMELAN



TRIBUTE



भारत की भूतपूर्व विदेश मंत्री स्वर्गीय श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज जी

धन्य धन्य हैं माता-पिता और
धन्य है भारत-देश।
सुषमा स्वराज थीं महान नेता जो,
दे गई कई संदेश।

काश! दीर्घ आयु हो जाती तो
राजनीति और नारी-जाति का बढ़ता और सम्मान।
वह 'गीता-ग्रंथ' की ज्ञानी थीं और,
सत्य मार्ग की थी सही पहचान।

वह भारत-माँ की ऐसी बेटी थीं जो,
अपनी सभ्यता का करती थीं उत्तम व्याख्यान।
घर मंदिर या देश-विदेश में,
ऊँची करती रहीं स्वदेश की शान।

सुषमा-स्वराज थी ऐसी जोड़ी,
जिसका मुश्किल करना है व्याख्यान।
उन की बेटी भी है कानूनी-धारा में,
वह पारिवारिक तिरंगे का ऊँचा करेगी मान।

सुषमा जी के अचानक निधन से,
आहत हुई भारत सरकार।
हृदय-गति के रुक जाने का,
कर ना सके डाक्टर उपचार।

अंतस हुआ भावुक अब इतना,
मूक हो गया शब्द-भंडार।
कैसे अर्पित करूँ श्रद्धांजली,
मौत के आगे जाते सब हार।

लेखिका- अमरजीत कौर, बा, फ़ीजी

भारत की भूतपूर्व विदेश मंत्री स्वर्गीया
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज जी को फ़ीजी की
हिंदी की विख्यात कवयित्री श्रीमती अमरजीत कौर
द्वारा भावभीनी काव्यात्मक श्रद्धांजलि !



श्रीमती अमरजीत कौर एवम फ़ीजी में भारत की उच्चायुक्त श्रीमती पद्मजा
(फोटो में : स्वर्गीय श्री जोगिन्दर सिंह कँवल, फ़ीजी के विख्यात हिंदी लेखक)



High Commissioner Presenting Credential to President of Fiji (above) and Nauru (below)



Group Photo at Republic Day 2020

INDIA: A COMMITTED DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

India's Support to Fijian Micro and Small Businesses Grant (MSBG) Facility



Mrs. Padmaja, High Commissioner of India to Fiji, handed over a Cheque of FJ\$2.08mn (US\$980,000) to His Excellency Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Fiji on 25 June 2019 towards Government of India's assistance to Fijian SME Sector. During the visit, Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Fiji in November 2014, India had pledged US\$ 5 million as assistance in administration of the MSBG Facility.

This was the last tranche out of the US\$ 5 million assistance committed by India. Micro and Small Business Grant Facility (MSBG Facility), an initiative of the Fijian Government is designed to provide grants to recipients for start-ups for micro and small businesses as well as assistance to existing micro and small businesses.

The Grant covers applicants from a vast range of activities such as canteen businesses, poultry, bee keeping, livestock farming, market vending, bakery, sewing, roadside stalls, tailoring and handicraft businesses etc. amongst others by providing them FJ\$1000 each to start these activities.

Commissioning of Schools in Fiji Post-TC Winston

India sponsored US\$1.3 million towards renovation of twenty schools in Fiji under Government of Fiji's Adopt-A-School Programme. Two schools have been successfully commissioned.

Penang School, Rakiraki



The Commissioning of the school was officiated by Hon. Minister for Education, Rosy Sofia Akbar and High Commission of India Head of Chancery, Mr. Sukanta Sahoo.



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Wainibuka District School



Pacific Islands Development Forum Summit and Conference & Pacific Island Forum Summit in Tuvalu 2019

The Pacific Islands Development Forum Conference was held on the 29 – 30 July 2019 at the Pullman Nadi Bay Resort & Spa Fiji with the theme, 'South – South Cooperation for a Resilient Pacific.'

The Fiftieth (50th) Pacific Islands Forum was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 13 – 16 August 2019 and was attended by the Heads of State, Government, and Territories of Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The theme of the Summit was 'Securing our future in the Pacific'.

Both Summits were attended by the High Commissioner of India Mrs. Padmaja.



ITEC SCHOLARSHIPS

The cooperation between India and Fiji and the other six Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) in the field of Human Resource Development and Capacity Building envisages training of eligible candidates in premier Indian institutes through Government of India sponsored training programmes conducted under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC).

Every year hundreds of training slots are made available to Fijians and other PIC candidates. Scholarships are also available for higher education in premier educational institutions and leading universities of India under the various scholarship schemes offered the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).



In the years 2019-20, Ministry of External Affairs has introduced more courses in their ITEC programme:

e-ITEC/ITEC onsite - e-ITEC is a modality of ITEC programme wherein training is imparted in partner countries by Indian Institutes online in real time. Under e-ITEC, the classrooms are shifted to our partner countries and tailor made courses are delivered by Indian faculties online/ through video conferencing. The facilities in the classroom required are desired internet bandwidth, telecommunication links and a focal person to coordinate. ITEC Onsite is a customised capacity building training under ITEC programme which are imparted in the partner country by deputing Indian experts/trainers in that country. ITEC Onsite is offered when a significant number of participants from a single country are to be trained on a particular subject.

ITEC Executive - ITEC Executive is an exclusive programme for senior level functionary of partner countries which covers trainings, workshops, study/ exposure visits etc. Visit of a delegation from partner country to develop an understanding of existing practices/system in India are covered under ITEC- Executive. For this module, the partner countries submit their proposal through our missions and the ITEC-Executive programme is anchored by a premier institute of India.

Details can be obtained from: itec.suva@mea.gov.in / Website: www.IndiainFiji.gov.in

Last year on 22 September, 2019, the High Commission of India celebrated the 55th Anniversary of ITEC at the Holiday Inn in Suva. The Chief Guest was PS for Civil Service, Ms. Susan Kiran. Also present was PS for Education, Ms. Alison Burchell, Secretary General for PIDF, Mr. Francois Martel & Vanuatu High Commissioner, Mr. Vurobaravu.

KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME



Know India Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs is a three-week orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication & information Technology, culture. KIP provides a unique forum for students & young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations & experiences and to develop closer bonds with the contemporary India.



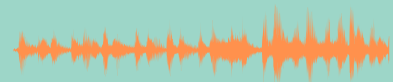
Shri Santosh Kumar Mishra, New Director of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Suva with his team.



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Suva



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Suva provides classes of various Indian Classical Dances, music, Yoga and Hindi Language. The Centre is located at 6th Floor of the LIC Building, Butt St, Suva. For joining these classes please contact: culture.suva@mea.gov.in



Other Cultural Events

Year long Celebration of Constitution Day

An event which was focused on the third Fundamental Duty enshrined in the Constitution of India i.e. "To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India" was organized on 25/02/2020 at 1200hrs. Shri. Y.S.Ashok, General Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Suva, Fiji Operations was the Chief Guest who delivered a talk on the subject.



The event was attended by around 50 Guests from cross sections of the society held at SVCC, Level 6, LIC Building, Suva. The High Commissioner of India, H.E. Smt. Padmaja welcomed the Chief Guest and delivered a key note address on the important aspects of Indian Constitution. A short film titled "Mooknayak –The Leader of the Silent" was screened during the function. Director SVCC, Officers and Staff of HCI and SVCC were present in the event.



Bapu@150 Birth Anniversary Celebrations (02.10.2019)

The High Commission of India in association with Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM) School, Suva organized Bapu @ 150 Birth Anniversary celebrations on 2nd October 2019 at Kshatriya Hall, Suva. The High Commissioner of India Smt. Padmaja graced the occasion as Chief Guest and the SVCC students of Tabla and Harmonium faculty performed during the Event.



Pre- Christmas Celebration on 24 December, 2019

The High Commissioner of India Smt. Padmaja graced the celebration and delivered her talk on the importance of the celebration in spreading peace, happiness, unity, integrity and harmony throughout the world. Children from SVCC Class were invited for the celebration of Christmas. A teacher of SVCC, Ms Angelina Christi sang Christmas carol as an opening prayer. Director SVCC, Officers and Staff of HCI and SVCC and invited guest participated in the event.



Competition for Students on World Hindi Diwas - 8 January 2020

Various Competitions like Painting/Drawing, Essay writing and Poem writing were held to mark the World Hindi Day. The theme of the Competition was Cleanliness. A large number of SVCC Students participated in the Competition.



Diwali Celebration-Ratu Sukuna Park 9 November, 2019

The High Commission of India sponsored the celebration of Diwali conducted by India Fiji Friendship Forum (IFFF). Director SVCC, Officers and Staff of HCI and SVCC participated in the Diwali Celebration.

The High Commissioner of India, Smt. Padmaja graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered a talk on the importance of the celebration of Diwali. The High Commissioner also handed over a Cheque to the organization during the event. SVCC Music students performed an opening prayer song in the event.



Function to Commemorate Constitution Day and 129th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, 26th November, 2019

Constitution Day was celebrated with a Bust of Dr. B.R Ambedkar which was received from ICCR which was installed and unveiled by the Minister of Lands and Mineral Resources from the Government of the Republic of Fiji Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar at the High Commission of India Premises, Level 7, LIC Building, Suva. Hon. Minister also delivered a speech in Hindi on the Indian Constitution, An Animation film themed "India: Spirit of Freedom" was screened. A documentary on making of the Indian Constitution (Lok Sabha TV) was also screened. High Commissioner of India, Suva Mrs. Padmaja, read the Preamble: Constitution of India during the event.



71st Republic Day of India



The High Commission of India organized the celebration of 71st Republic Day of India on 26 January 2020 at India House. The Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held in the morning at India House, Suva and the High Commissioner of India, Mrs. Padmaja delivered the message of H.E. the President of India to the people. The Chief Guest for the event was Ambassador Yogesh Karan, Permanent Secretary for Office of the Prime Minister, Sugar Industry, Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Students of SVCC performed National Anthem during the event. Tree plantation was also done at India House. Officers and Staffs of HCI and SVCC were also present during the event.



73rd India's Independence Day Celebration

The High Commission of India organized the celebration of 73rd India's Independence Day Celebration at 7.00 AM in India House, Suva. The Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held at India House, Suva and the High Commissioner of India Mrs. Padmaja delivered the message of H.E. the President of India to the people. The Senior Citizens of Hindu Elders Foundation, New Zealand attended as special Guests and they were all honored by the High Commissioner of India.



Evening Reception

The High Commission of India organized the evening reception of 73rd India's Independence Day Celebration at 7.00 PM in Kshatriya Hall, Suva on 18.08.2019. The Chief Guest for the celebration was H.E. The President of Fiji, Hon. Jioji Konousi George Konrote. The other Guests from Govt of Fiji attended the celebration are Minister for Fisheries, HE Mr. Semi Koroilavesau, Minister for women, Children & poverty alleviation, H.E Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Assistant Minister for Agriculture , Hon. Jale Sigarara, Assistant Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth & Sports, Hon Alvick Avhikrit Maharaj, Assistant Minister for Youth & sports, Hon. Alipate Nagata, Permanent Secretary to Prime Ministers Office , Amb. Yogesh karan, Hon Justice Madan Lokur, diplomats, Civil Servants and distinguished guests.



Guru Nanak Dev ji 550th Birth Anniversary- Samabula

Organized by Sikh Temple Samabula– Gurudwara. One Week Celebration to mark the 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji. Started on Sunday 10 November 2019 ended on Sunday 17th November, 2019. High Commissioner of India, Suva Mrs. Padmaja, graced the Occasion as the Chief Guest. Officers and Staff of HCI and SVCC were present during the celebration. Started with Bhajan performed by SVCC Tabla and Harmonium faculty, a short film was shown on planting of Trees, H.E. Mrs. Padmaja , talked about the Environmental issues and also planted a tree. H.E. Mrs. Padmaja, also handed over a Cheque to the Organization during the event. During the Cultural activities SVCC students of Bhangra and Bahrnatyram performed.



550th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Sigatoka



Celebration of 5th International Day of Yoga 2019 in Fiji & other Pacific Island Countries

The High Commission of India, Suva, Fiji celebrated the 5th International Day of Yoga – IDY 2019 in Fiji and six other Pacific Island Countries under the High Commission Jurisdiction. These countries are Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu where the IDY 2019 was celebrated in a staggered manner from 15 – 23, June 2019. In Fiji, the IDY was celebrated in three cities namely Suva, Labasa and Lautoka.

The IDY 2019 celebration received rich coverage in media of all the places. The message on Yoga delivered by the Honorable Prime Minister of India to the world was played on the big screen at the start of the celebration of IDY 2019. A large number of Yoga enthusiasts of all age groups have participated in the event and benefitted.

Fiji



President of Nauru attended the International Yoga Day in Nauru

Vanuatu



Kiribati

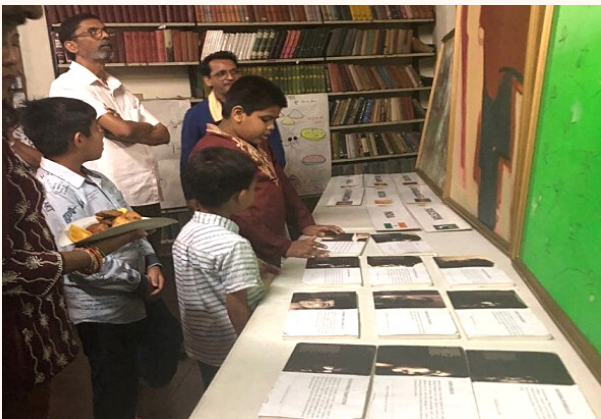


Cook Islands

Painting Exhibition “Jaisalmer Yellow”

The High Commission of India organized a Painting Exhibition, titled “Jaisalmer Yellow” on Monday, 08 July 2019 at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Suva sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The High Commissioner of India, Mrs. Padmaja welcomed the chief guest and spoke about the importance of the rich cultural heritage of the Desert City ‘Jaisalmer’ which is also known as Yellow City located in the heart of the Thar Desert which showcased through 25 paintings by renowned artists from eight countries from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation namely India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, often referred to as SAARC countries.

Painting Exhibition “Jaisalmer Yellow” was also exhibited in Lautoka, Ba, Sigatoka and Nadi and was also displayed during Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) Leaders’ Summit and Conference 2019 attended by Heads of States, Leaders of international organizations and Representatives of Development Partners of Pacific Island Development Forum. Apart from capital Suva, the exhibitions were held at five more places across Fiji: Lautoka, Ba, Sigatoka, Nadi, Seaqqa.



Release of Commemorative CDs on the Occassion of 550th & 150th Birth Anniversaries of Guru Nanak Devji & Mahatma Gandhi



STATES IN FOCUS



Bihar

"The Land Of Monastries"

Bihar's antiquity is evident from its name, which is derived from the ancient word "VIHARA" (monastery). It is indeed a land of monastries. Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Muslim and Sikh shrines abound in this ancient land where India's first major empires rose and fell. Where the ruins of the worlds' earliest university slumbers in the void of time.

The passage of Ganga, flowing wide and deep enrich the plains of Bihar before distributing in Bengal's deltoid zone. Among all Indian states, Bihar is the one most intimately linked to the Buddha's life, resulting in a trail of pilgrimages which have come to be known as the Buddhist circuit. The Buddhist trail begins at the capital city, Patna, where a noteworthy museum contains a collection of Hindu and Buddhist sculptures as well as a terracotta urn said to contain the ashes of Lord Buddha.

The Buddha spent five years at Rajgir after having attained enlightenment, and many of the remains at Rajgir commemorate various incidents related to life of Buddha, the hill of Gridhrakuta being perhaps the most important, as this is where the Buddha delivered most of his sermons. Bodhgaya is the spot where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, with the Mahabodhi Temple marking the precise location. A monastic university flourished in Bihar (Nalanda) from the 5th to the 11th century. It is said to have contained nine million books, with 2,000 teachers to impart knowledge to 10,000 students who came from all over the Buddhist world. Lord Buddha himself taught here and Hieun Tsang, the 7th century Chinese traveler, was a student.

Ongoing excavations have uncovered temples, monasteries and lecture halls. Rajgir, 'the royal palace', 12 km south, was the venue for the first Buddhist Council. This landlocked state of Bihar is surrounded by Nepal, Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and comprises four cultural regions- Bhojpur, Mithila and Magadha and Chotanagpur.

Factfile

- Capital: Patna
- Geographical Area (sq km): 94,163
- State Language: Hindi, English, Urdu and Bhojpuri
- Literacy Rate: 61.8 per cent
- Key Industries: Food and beverages, rubber and plastics, transport, equipment, chemicals, tobacco, textile, leather and dairy.

Key Sectors:

- Total horticulture production in the state for 2018-19 was 21,204.97 thousand MT with 1,185.36 thousand hectares of area under production.
- State produced 6,787.8 thousand MT of rice and 62 thousand MT of pulses in 2018-19.
- Sugarcane is grown in approximately 6 percent of the total area under cultivation in Bihar. Sugarcane production in the state for 2018-19 (P) stood at 182.85 lakh MT. During sugar season 2019-20, 11 sugar mills were operating in the state of Bihar. During 2019-20, 220.50 lakh MT sugar is estimated to be produced in Bihar.
- The foreign tourist arrival in Bihar in the year 2018 was around 1.09 million. Domestic tourist arrival in the state stood at 33.62 million during the same time. In 2019 (till September), foreign tourist arrival reached 0.70 million and domestic tourist arrival stood at 16.94 million.

ECONOMY

Bihar is located in the eastern part of India. The state is surrounded by Nepal in the north, West Bengal in the east, Uttar Pradesh in the west and Jharkhand in the south. The state enjoys a unique location specific advantage because of its proximity to the vast markets of eastern and northern India, access to ports such as Kolkata and Haldia and to raw material sources and mineral reserves from the neighbouring states.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Bihar grew at a CAGR of 12.01 per cent between 2011-12 and 2020-21. Bihar's per capita GSDP increased from US\$ 490.62 in 2011-12 to US\$ 680.23 in 2018-19 at CAGR of 10.25 per cent.

Bihar is one of the strongest agricultural states. The percentage of population employed in agricultural production in Bihar is around 80 per cent, which is much higher than the national average. It is the fourth largest producer of vegetables & the eight largest producers of fruits in India. Food processing, dairy, sugar, manufacturing and healthcare are some of the fast growing industries in the state. The state has planned initiatives for the development of other sectors such as education and tourism and also provides incentives for information technology and renewable energy.

The state enjoys a unique location specific advantage because of its proximity to the vast markets of eastern and northern India, access to ports such as Kolkata and Haldia and to raw material sources and mineral reserves from the neighbouring states.

The state has a large base of cost effective industrial labour, making it an ideal destination for a wide range of industries. Total FDI for Bihar & Jharkhand, between April 2000 and December 2019, stood at US\$ 113 million. In 2019, eight investments were filed in the state and the amount of investments proposed was Rs 671 crore (US\$ 96.01 million). Total merchandise exports from the state stood at US\$ 1,345.31 million during 2017-18. During 2019-20 (up to Dec 19), the exports stood at US\$ 1,260.15 million.

Patna Qalam

Patna Qalam is a very popular School of Painting of Bihar. This offshoot of the well-known Mughal Miniature School of Painting flourished in Bihar during early 18th to mid 20th century. With the decline of the Mughals, the Delhi artists migrated to Murshidabad. Some of them came to Patna and practiced their craft following a style that gradually came to be known as the Patna Qalam. The style is famous for its soft colors and the use of hand made paper or mica sheets. Most of these paintings depict the life of the people of Bihar.

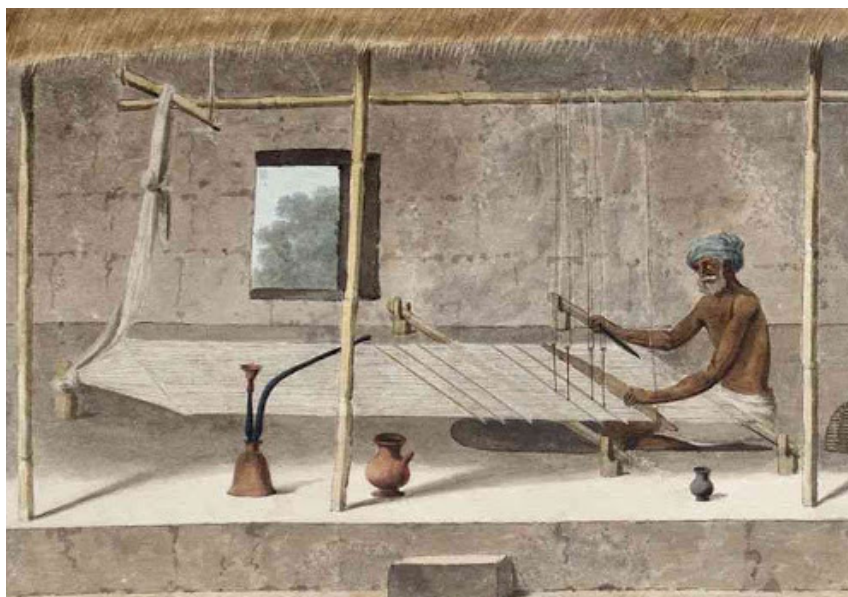
CUSTOMS AND RITUALS

Bihar has a rich cultural heritage. The Hindu deities, Lord Rama and His consort, Seeta, and Lord Shiva and His consort, Parvati, form the main theme of folk paintings. Bihar, a land of many Buddhist Monasteries is also known as 'The Land of Buddha'. The beautiful stories of the ancient times are depicted in the exquisite handicrafts of Bihar. One of the art forms of Bihar, the Madhubani School of Painting, has lately received much attention and popularity.

Madhubani, in the heart of the Mithila region, had a rich tradition of wall paintings done by the village women with vegetable dyes. An artist encouraged them to try their wall paintings on paper and since then Mithila paintings gained ground. These line paintings in primary colors normally depict village scenes, human and animal forms, gods and goddesses.

Recent Developments

- Under BSHP – 2, construction of ROB (part of SH 83 Baghi-Barbigha Road) is expected to complete in January 2019. total cost of the project was Rs 32.74 crore (US\$ 5.08 million)
- During 2019-20 (up to January 2020), Patna and Gaya handled 26,089 and 2,754 aircraft movements respectively. Patna and Gaya handled 38,49,167 and 1,82,517 passengers respectively in same period. Patna airport handled 10,637 MT freight traffic during same period.
- As on April 2018, under the AMRUT scheme, total amount of Rs 2,469.77 crore (US\$ 383.21 million) were allocated to the state of Bihar.



Folk Arts Chhau Dance

The simple tribal people of Bihar express their creative joy through the Chhau dance, which was originally a war dance, preformed in order to perfect fighting techniques. It has, over the years, evolved into a narrative ballet.



CUISINE

Pitha



Made with rice and dal or rice and coconut or rice cooked in milk, pitha is a traditional Bihari preparation made during festivals and sometimes as an indulgent afternoon dish.



Crafts

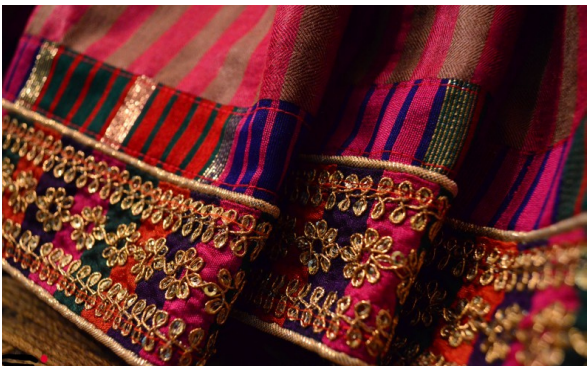
Villages around Bodhgaya create fascinating handicrafts. Fantastic bamboo articles, leather works, statues made up of white metal, wooden toys and baskets made from cane and bamboo are available in plenty.

Government of Bihar
Industries Department
Handicrafts of Bihar
Bamboo Craft



- Bamboo is the oldest craft of Bihar.
- It has a rich historical past, the craft received elaborate patronage during the time of Mauryan and Gupta empires.
- Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Patna and Vaishali are the main centers for the Bamboo craft in the state.

Bhagalpur



Bhagalpur is famous for its silk industry and is considered to be one of the best silk producing centres in India, in manufacturing silk yarn and weaving them into lovely products. This silk is of a distinct and special type. It is known as the tussah or tusser silk. Other crafts of Bihar include Sujni embroidery, lac bangle making, and creation of decorative and utility items of Seenki (a local dried grass).

Bihari Kebab

Made of lamb strips, these melt-in the mouth kebabs are roasted in a charcoal oven and are served with lemon and onion rings. The credit for the origin of these kebabs is given to the Afghan invaders of medieval age.

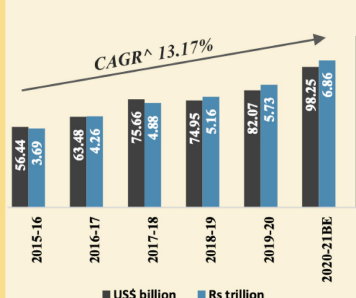


BIHAR

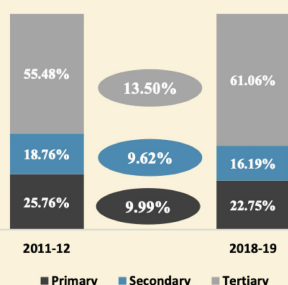
THE LAND OF BUDDHA

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

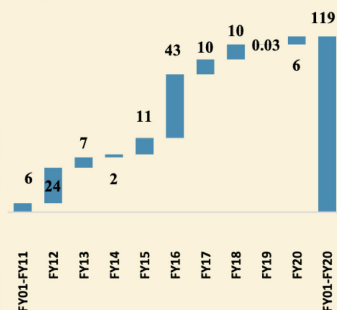
GSDP of Bihar at current price



Distribution of GSVA CAGR[^]



FDI inflow in Bihar* April 2000 – March 2020 (US\$ million)



Note: BE- Budget estimates, * - Data for FDI includes Jharkhand, ^ - CAGR in Rs, GSDP – Gross State Domestic Product, GSVA – Gross State Value Added, FDI- Foreign Direct Investment
Source: Central Statistics Office, Directorate of Economics and Statistics of Bihar, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

ADVANTAGES



High economic growth with flourishing industries

- The GSDP of Bihar increased at a CAGR of 13.17 per cent between 2015-16 and 2020-21.
- Fastest growing industries include food processing, dairy, sugar, manufacturing and healthcare. Initiatives in place for the development of other sectors such as education and tourism.



Policy incentives

- Increased its focus on women empowerment as per women empowerment policy.
- Government employees and pensioners given a revised pay scale from the month of May.



Rich labour pool

- Large base of cost-effective industrial labour.
- Institutes of national importance such as National Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Technology.



Location advantage

- Unique location specific advantage because of its proximity to vast markets.

KEY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Bihar Women

Empowerment Policy 2015

Women empowerment by ensuring availability of resources (education and employment) for women.

Bihar State Hydro-Power Policy – 2012

Obtain optimal thermal-hydro generation mix in a 60:40 ratio.

Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy-2016

Attract on-ground investment of Rs 15,000 crore (US\$ 2.15 billion) and create high-end infrastructure facilities to attract investment.



IT/ITeS Investment

Promotion Vision 2017

To promote Brand Bihar as one of the top five investment destination and create employment for 20,000 people in the next five years.

Bihar Policy for Promotion of New and Renewable Energy Sources 2017

To develop all forms of new and renewable energy sources.

GOVERNMENT VISION-2022 FOR THE STATE

GSDP Growth

Promotion of agri-business through upgraded technology, financial incentives and infrastructure development.

Education

Achieve zero dropout rate and increase spending on building schools and colleges to upgrade infrastructure.

Health

Build medical institutions, create awareness and bring technological advancements.

Tourism

Promote educational, cultural and religious tourism. Knowledge and religious hubs to be built and is expected to attract 100,000 tourists per year by 2022.



“God’s Own Country”

Kerala is blessed with a unique set of geographical features that have made it one of the most sought after tourist destinations in Asia. A long shoreline with serene beaches, tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters, lush hill stations and exotic wildlife, are just a few of the wonders. Most of the state is engulfed in rich greenery which ensures a very calming experience at all times. Bestowed with a pleasant and equable climate throughout the year, Kerala is a tropical land where one can relax and be at ease.

Kerala is a tropical paradise where you can paddle in tranquil backwaters, trek the rocky Western Ghats, chase the mists in the hill stations, rejuvenate with pristine Nature and Ayurvedic treatments, hug the unspoiled beaches and so much more.

Kerala isn't just a destination; it's a saga of experiences! Golden beaches, emerald backwaters, lofty mountain ranges, powerful art forms the choices are many and so are the wonders that await you in Kerala.

The state's per capita GSDP was US\$ 3,089 during 2017-18 compared with US\$ 2,318 during 2011-12. Kerala can be termed as the land of spices, considering the large variety of spices grown in the state.

Kerala is the largest producer of pepper in India and accounts for a lion's share in India's production.

Apart from pepper, other spices produced in the state include ginger, cardamom, nutmeg, tamarind, etc.

Factfile

- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Geographical Area (sq km): 38,863
- State Language: Malayalam, Hindi, English and Tamil
- Literacy Rate: 94.6 per cent
- Key Industries: Handlooms and power looms, rubber, bamboo, coir, khadi and village, sericulture, seafood and other marine products, cashew, mining, tourism, food processing, spice and spice extracts, IT & electronics.

ECONOMY

Kerala is one of the few states to have marketed its natural beauty successfully to the leisure tourism sector. The state's unique heritage and cultural diversity have helped attract tourists from the world over. BBC Travel survey has rated Kerala as the top favorite tourist destination among foreign traveler.

Key Sectors:

- During 2018-19*, fruits and vegetable production in the state stood at 1,885.97 thousand MT and 3,042.86 thousand MT respectively. State accounted for about 78 per cent share in the total natural rubber production in 2017-18. Natural Rubber production in Kerala stood at 551 thousand MT during 2017-18.
 - During April-June 2019, tea production in Kerala stood at 21.30 million kg. Tea exports from the State stood at US\$ 58.64 million during 2019-20 (till Sept 19).
 - The state has a techno park in Thiruvananthapuram which has been instrumental in attracting global electronics manufacturers, an info park in Kochi, and a cyber park in Kozhikode
 - Kerala's share in the national marine fish production is around 13 per cent. During 2019-20 (till Sept 2019), exports of marine products from the state stood at US\$ 338.86 million.
- NOTE:* - As per 3rd Advance Estimates

WILDLIFE

There are a number of popular wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala housing exotic and rare species of flora and fauna. Nestled in the elaborate forest of the majestic Western Ghats or Sahyadri Ranges in Kerala are fourteen wildlife sanctuaries and two tiger reserves. Kerala also has six national parks containing protected and endangered species like the Indian Sloth-Bear, Lion-Tailed Macaque, Indian Bison, Bengal Tiger, Nilgiri Tahr etc.



Choolannur Pea Fowl or Mayiladumpara

As it is locally known, is a premier haven for peacocks in Kerala. Located in Palakkad, getting to the 500 hectare enclosure requires a trek through dense forests. The view however makes up for it immediately. One is enraptured by the vivid colours and majestic shades of this kingly species. At this pristinely maintained heaven, dawn and dusk tend to be the best viewing times.

MUSEUMS IN KERALA



Keralam, Museum of History and Heritage in Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala's history is interspersed with the many myths and legends that once held court here. The celestial beings themselves carved out the soul of this land, and today we look back and revere the glorious past of our ancestors.

Keralam, a museum of history and heritage in the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram, is a joint venture of Kerala Tourism and the State Department of Archaeology that aims at showcasing the beauty of this land. One is greeted by a modern display techniques such as touch-screen counters and multimedia systems that explain the artefacts arranged in different galleries. There are regular narrative documentaries on the distinctive facets of Kerala's cultural history.

Also on display are archaeological evidences of the Neolithic Age, burial accompaniments belonging to the Iron Age, sculptures of Gods and Goddesses in bronze, wood and stone, coins, murals and many more. Other main attractions include the Roman Dinari (that settled the debate on Kerala's contact with the Roman Empire), 14th Century Brahma Sculpture, 16th Century Nataraja Sculpture and the 17th Century murals from the Pundarikapuram Temple, Kottayam.

KERALA FOOD

Spices have always played an integral part of Kerala's history. Kerala food is an example of the very same and we have offerings for people from all over the world.

Kappa or tapioca has been a beloved staple of Kerala cuisine for centuries. With the right blend of spices, a perfectly cooked piece of Kappa almost melts in your mouth. And everyone agrees that fish is the perfect accompaniment to Kappa. Meen Mulakittathu along with Kappa is the epitome of an ideal Kerala meal.

Kappa & Meen Mulakittathu





Idiapam and Egg Roast

Most Keralites swear that the Idiapam and Egg Roast combination can go up against any breakfast cuisine from anywhere else on the planet. The steamed Idiapam, famous for its delicate texture, and the delicious broth of the traditionally cooked egg roast, take one's taste buds on a wild ride that one must not miss at any cost.



Chemmeen Moilee

Chemmeen Moilee is best consumed with rice, which absorbs its rich and spicy ingredients perfectly, and helps elevate the experience of consuming this seafood delicacy to another level. Made using fresh chemmeen (prawns) and locally procured ingredients, this is an easy to put together seafood masterpiece that all our visitors absolutely love.

Artforms

Kerala has birthed and nurtured a plethora of art forms over a thousand years. Our shores have watched them evolve and flourish in various shapes and forms.



Mohiniyattam

Lord Vishnu once came to the aid of the Gods by assuming the form of the beautiful enchantress Mohini to seduce their arch nemesis, the Asuras (demons).

He would retrieve the very elixir of life from them, which is said to have appeared when the Ocean of Milk was churned. The temple dancers of old are said to be the first to have started this dance form in commemoration of this great mythological event, and the world was eternally blessed with the captivating classical dance form, Mohiniyattam.

The leisurely movements, the swaying yet graceful symphony of the hips and eye movements that enchant all who witness them are all synonymous with this legendary art form. Initially called 'Dasiattam' because of the Devdasis (temple dancers) who first performed it, Mohiniyattam was very popular during the Chera reign from 9th to 12th century. Its elegant costume, traditional jewellery and alluring make up are synonymous with the culture of Kerala. People flock in large numbers from around the world to witness this charming performance.

Kalaripayattu



Considered among the oldest and most scientific martial arts in the world, Kalaripayattu was developed in Kerala. Lauded as the pride of Kerala, it is acknowledged and respected across the world. The training begins with an oil massage of the entire body until it is agile and supple. Feats like chattom (jumping), ottam (running) and marichil (somersault) are also integral parts of the art form.

There are also lessons in using weapons like swords, daggers, spears, maces, and bows and arrows. The primary aim is the ultimate coordination between mind and body.

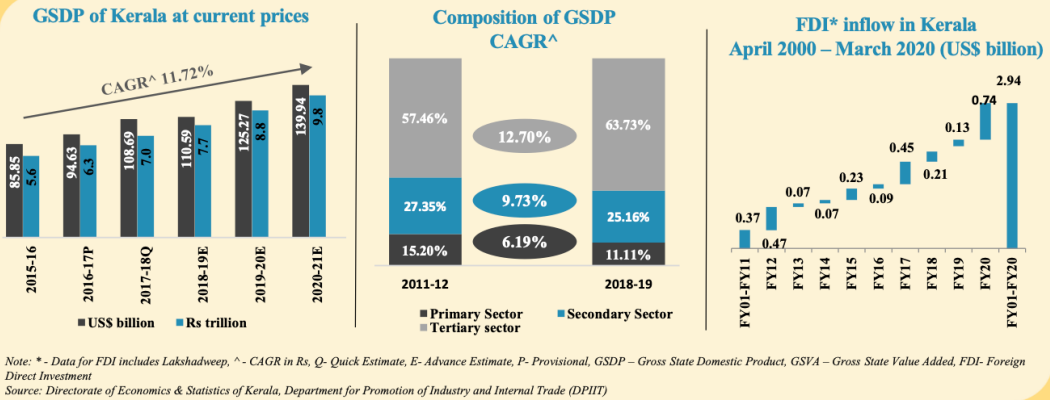
Another focus of Kalaripayattu is specialisation in indigenous medicinal practices. Kalaris are also important centres of religious worship. Once the course is complete, one should engage in oil massage and practice to maintain shape.



KERALA

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT



Note: * - Data for FDI includes Lakshadweep, ^ - CAGR in Rs, Q- Quick Estimate, E- Advance Estimate, P- Provisional, GSDP – Gross State Domestic Product, GSA – Gross State Value Added, FDI- Foreign Direct Investment
Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of Kerala, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIT)

ADVANTAGES

High economic growth

- Kerala's Gross State Domestic Product(GSDP) grew at a CAGR of 11.72 per cent between 2015-16 and 2020-21.
- Kerala is the leader in rubber production and high demand of rubber has opened immense opportunities for the state in the rubber industry.

Leader in tourism

- BBC Travel survey has rated Kerala as the top favourite tourist destination among foreign travellers.

Rich pool of skilled labour

- Kerala has a large base of skilled labour, making it an ideal destination for knowledge-intensive sectors.
- The state has the highest literacy rate in the country.

Policy and infrastructure support

- Kerala has an Industrial and Commercial Policy along with various well-drafted sector-specific policies.
- The state has a well-developed social, physical and industrial infrastructure. The state also has good power, airport, IT, and port infrastructure.

KEY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Kerala Industrial & Commercial Policy, 2017

To promote Kerala as a prime destination for industrial investment with environmental protection.

Kerala Agricultural Development Policy, 2015

To identify agriculturally potential land and demarcate it using modern technologies such as remote sensing, satellite imagery, etc.

Kerala Technology Startup Policy, 2014

To inaugurate minimum ten technology business incubators for different sectors of the state and attract foreign investors.

Kerala Solar Energy Policy, 2013

To reach target installed capacity of 2,500 MW by 2030 and to set up floating and off-shore generation units.

Kerala Tourism Policy, 2017

To market Kerala as a visible global brand in domestic and international markets.

GOVERNMENT VISION-2030 FOR THE STATE

Industry

Increase the share of manufacturing to 10 per cent of the GSDP by 2030.

Education

Create a global brand name in education and develop into a knowledge hub by 2030.

Energy

Exploit the full potential of hydro-electric generation and provide affordable and clean power to all.

Health

Increase health expenditure to GSDP ratio from 0.6 per cent in 2012 to 4-5 per cent by 2027-31.
Provide health insurance cover for all.



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.

Factfile

- Capital: Shillong
- Geographical Area (sq km): 22,429
- State Language: English, Khasi, Pnar and Garo
- Literacy Rate: 74.4 per cent
- Key Industries: Agriculture and food processing, floriculture, horticulture, mining, cement, tourism, hydroelectric power, handlooms, handicrafts and sericulture

Key Sectors

- Turmeric produced in the state of Meghalaya is considered to be one of the best in the world as it contains 7.5 per cent of curcumin.
- As per State Budget 2019-20, there are two hydro projects currently under implementation - Lakroh SHP (1.5MW) and Ganol HEP (3x7.5 MW) in which Lakroh has been completed and Ganol is expected to be commissioned by 2020.
- The state also has tremendous potential for tourism. Number of tourists visiting Meghalaya increased from 839,363 in 2016 to 1,002,907 in 2017.
- Coal and limestone production in Meghalaya stood at 1.39 million tonnes and 6.68 million tonnes, respectively, in 2018-19

ECONOMY

Meghalaya is located in the Northeast of India. The state shares its border on the north and east with Assam and on the south and west with Bangladesh.

Meghalaya, with an average annual rainfall of 1,150 cm, receives the highest amount of rainfall in the country. The diverse range of soil types, including red-loamy and laterite, support various agricultural crops like rice, maize, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and mesta. The state has achieved success in the cultivation of non- traditional crops like tea, cashew nut, oilseeds, tomato, mushroom, wheat, etc. During 2018-19[^], the state produced 331.67 thousand tonnes of fruits and 74.26 thousand tonnes of spices. As of November 2019, Meghalaya had a total installed power generation capacity of 596.04 MW, comprising 354.53 MW from state utilities, 13.92 from private utilities and 227.56 MW from central utilities. Of the total installed power generation capacity, 394.27 MW was contributed by hydropower, 155.29 MW by thermal power and 46.45 MW by renewable power. Meghalaya, with abundant deposits of coal, limestone, kaolin feldspar, quartz, granite, industrial clay and uranium and a small deposit base of sillimanite, bauxite, base metals and apatite has great industrial potential.

Meghalaya, one of the most picturesque states in the country, has two National Parks and three wildlife sanctuaries. It offers many adventure tourism opportunities like mountaineering, rock climbing, hiking & trekking, water sports, etc. Passenger traffic at Barapani during 2018-19 reached 12,482. Aircraft movement at the airport during 2018-19 stood at 551. Passenger traffic and aircraft movement at Barapani airport stood at 14,634 and 400, respectively, during April- October 2019.

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), cumulative FDI inflows to the North-eastern states, during April 2000 to June 2019, stood at US\$ 122 million.

Total merchandise exports from Meghalaya were US\$ 51.09 million in FY19. Merchandise exports during April- September 2019 reached US\$ 22.52 million.

CLIMATE



The State enjoys a temperate climate. It is directly influenced by the South-West Monsoon and the northeast winter wind. The four seasons of Meghalaya are: Spring - March and April, Summer (Monsoon) - May to September, Autumn -October and November and Winter - December to February.

The Monsoon usually starts by the third week of May and continues right to the end of September and sometimes well into the middle of October. Maximum rainfall occurs over the southern slopes of the Khasi Hills, i.e over the Sohra and the Mawsynram platform, which receives the heaviest rainfall in the world. The average rainfall in the State is 12,000 mm.

Capital

Meghalaya's capital, Shillong and also the District Headquarters of East Khasi Hills District is situated at an altitude of 1,496 metres above sea level. The capital city has a bracing climate throughout the year. This city has been the seat of Government since the consolidation of the British administration in this part of India more than a century ago.

The city is well connected with motorable roads all over, has its own charm, different from other hill stations, and presents a natural scenic beauty with waterfalls, brooks, pine grooves and gardens. The place, the people, the flora and fauna and the climate all combine to make Shillong an ideal resort throughout the year. Shillong offers amenities for tourists with good hotel accommodations, facilities for sports, angling, trekking and hiking. Shillong is connected by the National Highway 40 with the rest of the country through Assam. It is also well connected by road with other important towns of the State.

People, Culture & Religion

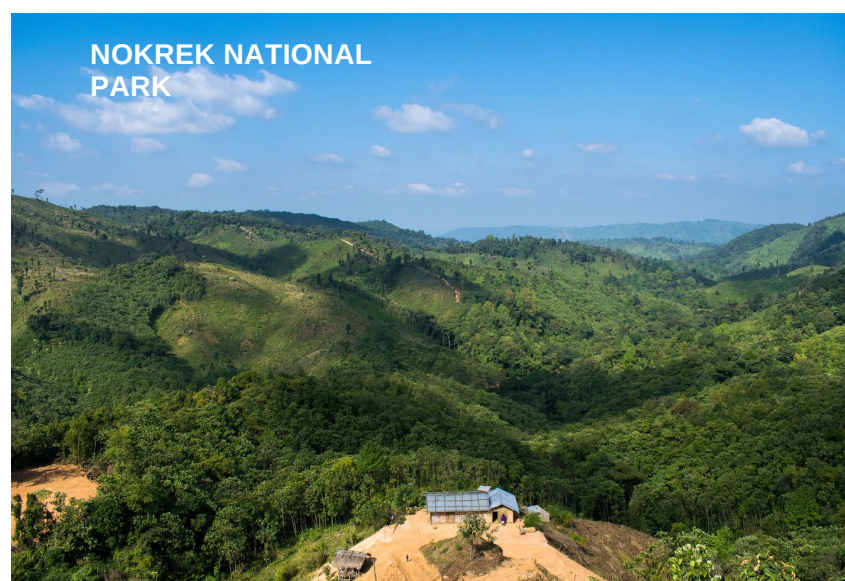
Meghalaya's main ethnic communities, each having its own distinctive customs and cultural traditions are the Khasis (of Mon-Khmer ancestry), the Garos (of Tibeto-Burman origin) and the Jaintias said to be from South East Asia. The common trait binding all three communities is its matrilineal system in which the family lineage is taken from the mother's side. The people of Meghalaya are known to be hospitable, cheerful and friendly. Traditionally, the Khasis believe that their religion is God given and is based on the belief of one supreme God, the creator 'U Blei Nongthaw'. A Khasi is a deeply religious person, who has an intense love of life. He believes that life is God's greatest gift and he has to account for it again in the hereafter.



The Jaintias and Khasis have the same religion, although the Jaintias are more influenced by Hinduism. They have a superstition that the Jam, like the Khasi Thlen, is an evil spirit bringing riches to its owner and disease or death to its enemies or victims.

The Garos believe in one supreme Creator, Rabuga, who is the sustainer and commander of the world. The other spirits are the representatives of the supreme Creator. The spirits connected to the Garo's agricultural life, are appeased by sacrifices but never worshipped. The headman is an integral part of the village and acts as religious head.

WILDLIFE



The Nokrek National Park and Biosphere Reserve is about 45 kms from Tura. Nokrek is the highest peak in Garo Hills and home to different species of wild animals including Elephants and Hoolock Gibbons. The Nokrek National Park has been established at Nokrek and it abounds in various wildlife including herds of wild elephants, rare varieties of birds and pheasants, beside rare orchids. The park is also home to a very rare species of citrus-indica endemic to this place which the locals call memang narang ('orange of the spirits'). Nokrek is also believed to be the home of Mande Burung (jungle man or ape man) and reported cases of sightings abound in and around the villages of Nokrek.



Selbagre Hoolock Gibbon Reserve

Location: West Garo Hills District. This small area protected by the community is home to the Hoolock Gibbons, the only ape species found in India. The sacred grove in the reserve is the pride of the village and the community. The Garos never kill or hunt the Hoolock Gibbon as it is a traditional belief among them that if a Hoolock Gibbon is killed, a famine or a curse would befall the entire village.

CUISINE

The name, "Jadoh" is taken by the Khasi community of Meghalaya, the most popular dish from the land of the hills, Jadoh rice. It's made with rice and pork mixed with the best spices, chopped vegetables and garnished with eggs or fried fish. Don't miss it if you are there. Don't forget to get the recipe for your home!

Jadoh



Pumaloi

The "Pumaloi" is the type of rice which is "Steamed". The Pumaloi is the kind of a rice in Meghalaya. These are the special powdered rice and a favourite of the Khasis people. They love to have it at any time, be it during breakfast, lunch or dinner. It is something simple, devoured with something very spicy.

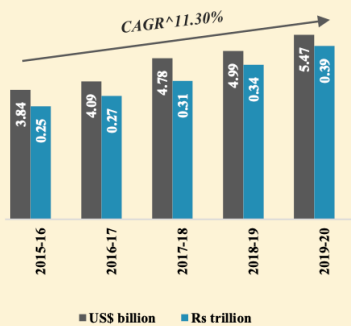


MEGHALAYA

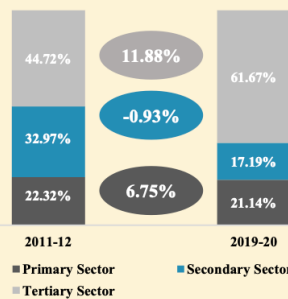
ABODE OF CLOUDS

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

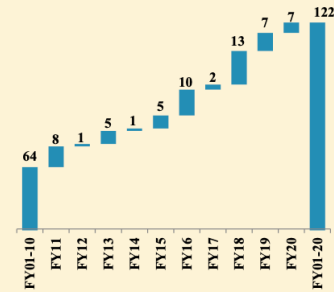
GSDP of Mizoram at current prices



GSVA composition by sector CAGR



FDI inflow in Meghalaya* April 2000 – September 2019 (US\$ million)



Note: * - Including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, ^CAGR in Rs, GSDP – Gross State Domestic Product, GSVA – Gross State Value Added, FDI- Foreign Direct Investment
Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics Meghalaya, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

ADVANTAGES

Conducive agro-climatic conditions

- Favourable agro-climatic conditions that support agriculture, horticulture and forestry.
- Abundant natural resources which offer significant avenues for investment.

Rich labour pool

- Literacy rate of 74.4 per cent and a strong higher education infrastructure.
- Majority of the local population speaks and understands English.

Policy and fiscal incentives

- Offers a host of industrial incentives along with Central Government's incentives.
- Agro-processing, horticulture, minerals, tourism, electronics and IT have been identified as thrust sectors.

Institutional support

- Provides excellent institutional support through various Central and State Government agencies.
- Agencies include North East Council, Ministry of Development of North-eastern region and Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation.

KEY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Meghalaya Sports Policy, 2019

To engage in professional approaches for planning and organization of sports and sporting events at the State, national and international levels.

Meghalaya State Education Policy, 2018

Enhance the job readiness of secondary/higher secondary students by strengthening their cognitive and non-cognitive skills.

Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2016

Facilitate investment in new sectors across the state and ensure accelerated and sustained growth.

Meghalaya Telecom

Infrastructure Policy, 2018

To provide and increase telecom penetration to all inhabited villages of the State.

North East Industrial Development Scheme, 2017

Promote Northeast as an attractive investment destination by providing concessions and incentives.

Government Vision for the State

Transport

Building an efficient transport network.

Infrastructure

Ensuring regular and quality power supply and providing access to Chittagong port.

Policy support to industry

Upgrade and expand the power transmission network in the state.

Trade and Investments

Building border trade infrastructure and developing diplomatic initiatives.

Rajasthan

"The Land of Kings"



Umaid Bhawan Palace, located at Jodhpur in Rajasthan, India,

Rajasthan, the Land of Kings is synonymous to heroism, royalty and honour. Historic tales of battles fought and romance of the riches adorn the walls of the state. Established in the era marked with wartime ballads yet living in the modern period, this beautiful region is a travellers' destination. Those looking out for the remnants of the past should not pass up a trip to Rajasthan. For wanderers interested in adventures at the various landscapes should definitely get a glimpse of this venturesome state. And for the ones who plan to have a quiet sojourn gazing at the beauty of the golden sand dunes, Rajasthan tops your list. This land is a colourful melange of massive forts, stunning palaces, diverse cultures, delectable cuisines and warm people, set amidst a rugged yet inviting landscape.

It is a land that has inspired lot of people. Come tread on the sands of time. In Rajasthan you will find every hue in Nature's grand palette - the red sands, the blue of royalty, the pink cities or the amber sunsets. Surrender yourself to the sounds of trinkets or the sounds of the all conquering wind. Sight and sounds that are far removed from any city. Sights and sounds that will transport you into a folk lore. Music, art and dance is woven into every inch of this land of paradise. Come, walk into the unforgettable embrace of Rajasthan.

Factfile:

Capital: Jaipur

Geographical Area (sq km): 342,239

State Language: Hindi, Marwari, Jaipuri, Mewari, Malvi and English

Literacy Rate: 66.1 per cent

Key Industries: Cement, tourism, IT and ITeS, ceramics, handicrafts, chemicals, textile, marble and steel

Key Sectors:

The state is the leading producer of cement grade limestone in India. Production of limestone during 2018-19 (up to Feb 19) reached 69.8 million tonnes. Tourism is one of the key sectors in the state. In 2018, 50.24 million domestic tourists and 1.75 million foreign tourists visited Rajasthan.

Mining and Mineral Processing is another key sector for the state. Exports of Zinc and Products Made of Zinc reached US\$ 119.28 million during Apr-Sept 2019. Value of all minerals produced* during 2018-19 (as of Feb 19) in the state stood at Rs 11,534 crore (US\$ 1.65 billion). Food grain production is estimated to have reached 22.80 million tonnes in 2018-19. Production of cereals was estimated at 19.02 million tonnes, while that of pulses at 3.78 million tonnes during the 2018-19. Note: *Excluding Fuel, Atomic and Minor Minerals

ECONOMY

Rajasthan, the largest (area-wise) state in India, is located in the north-western part of the subcontinent. It is surrounded on the north and north-east by Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, on the east and south-east by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and on the south-west by Gujarat. The state has an agricultural economy with nine agro-climatic zones and various types of soil that help during the cultivation of crops. It is among the largest mineral-producing states in India. Around 81 varieties of minerals are available in the state and 57 minerals are produced on a commercial scale in the state. It also contributes significantly to production of dimensional and decorative stones, such as marble, sandstone, and granite etc. The state is one of the leading tourist destinations in India.



Historic palaces, especially those in Jaipur and Udaipur, offer opportunities to expand the luxury tourism segment, with increasing number of tourists visiting wildlife sanctuaries and desert locations. In 2018-19, the services sector contributed 44.99 per cent to the state's GSDP at current prices, followed by industries (30.19 per cent) and agriculture (24.82 per cent).

Rajasthan stands sixth among Indian states in rankings based on ease of doing business and reforms implementation, according to a study by the World Bank and KPMG. Total merchandise exports from Rajasthan were US\$ 7.06 billion in FY19. Merchandise exports during FY20 (till Sept) reached US\$ 3.32 billion.

BIODIVERSITY

BAND BARETHA

Band Baretha is an old wildlife reserve of the rulers of Bharatpur, currently under the administration of the Forest Department. The palace inside the reserve was built by Maharaj Kishan Singh and is the private property of the Bharatpur royal family. Band Baretha is a bird watcher's paradise because of over 200 species of birds, including the elusive Black Bittern.

KUMBHALGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary can be rightly considered as one of the major attractions for tourists who visit Udaipur and Kumbhalgarh.

Located about 65 km from Udaipur, the park is on the Udaipur - Pali - Jodhpur road, and encircles the massive fort of Kumbhalgarh. Whether you are a wild-life lover or just someone who wants to commune with nature, the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary has the perfect setting for it. Spread across parts of the Aravali range as well, the sanctuary is home to a number of endangered species. It offers you the chance to catch a glimpse of jungle cats, hyenas, jackals, leopards, sloth bears, nilgai, sambhar, chausingha, chinkara, hares, etc. You can even follow wolves around and see them engaged in their activities. Apart from the animals, you can also gaze at a number of birds at the sanctuary. Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary is blessed with a variety of flora that includes a number of trees and plants that exhibit herbal properties.

CUSTOMS AND RITUALS

The royal state of Rajasthan is steeped in art and culture that reflects the Indian way of life. The people of Rajasthan celebrate their traditions with great pomp and fervour. Rajasthani traditions, rites and rituals can be traced back to a thousand years, right up to the Vedas. Every important occasion comes with particular procedures and processes that are very unique to this state. Here's presenting a few of them:

BIRTH: The birth of a child is celebrated in an exhilarating and unique way in Rajasthan. Copper plates are beaten together accompanied by celebratory gunfire to announce the arrival of the child. A family priest is invited to bless the child and read its horoscope. The festivities continue into the night with music being played and sweets being distributed.

Namkaran - Eleven days after the birth of the child, a naming ceremony called Namkaran takes place. Women from the family join in singing songs of praise and offer their good wishes, while a priest blesses the child by reciting mantras from the sacred text, after which a name is given to the child.

Mundan - A new-born's first hair is associated with negative traits from ones past lives. Hence, the hair of a child between the ages of one to three is shaved off in a ceremony called Mundan. This ceremony is accompanied by reciting lines from the Veda till the shaving of the child's hair is completed. This signifies that the child is now free from his past.



Ganga Mandir

The Ganga Mandir, which resides in the heart of the city of Bharatpur is one of the most beautiful temples in Rajasthan. In it lies the magnificent deity of Ganga Maharaj made of pristine white marble. Maharaja Balwant Singh started constructing this temple in the mid-19th century. However, he had a very unique request that required all the affluent inhabitants of the city to donate one month's pay to help towards the temple's creation.



Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

Mehrangarh, located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, is one of the largest forts in India. Built in around 1459 by Rao Jodha, the fort is situated 410 feet above the city and is enclosed by imposing thick walls. Inside its boundaries there are several palaces known for their intricate carvings and expansive courtyards.



Dal Bati Churma (Lentils)

A meal in Rajasthan is incomplete without Dal Bati Churma, one of Rajasthan's most savoured, complete meals. The dish itself consists of Dal (Lentils), Baati (wheat bread balls) and Churma (Sweet powdered cereal), served with red chilli on top of it along with spicy garlic chutney with dry fruits like cashew, pistachio, almonds or raisins. The wheat bread ball is dipped in pure ghee and served hot in an earthen pot with a small vessel of Dal, red chilli, spicy garlic chutney.

CUISINE

Mirchi Bada

Mirchi bada is a spicy Indian snack consisting of chili and potato or cauliflower stuffing, served hot with tomato sauce or occasionally with mint and tamarind chutney. Banana pepper is used for making mirchi bada. The mirchi bada of Jodhpur, Rajasthan is famous, as the water in that region lends it a unique taste.

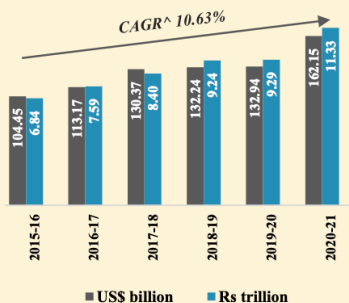




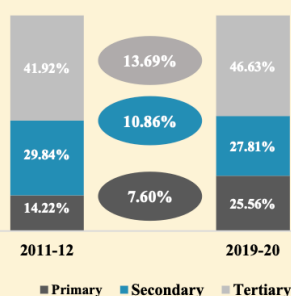
RAJASTHAN ROYAL HERITAGE

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

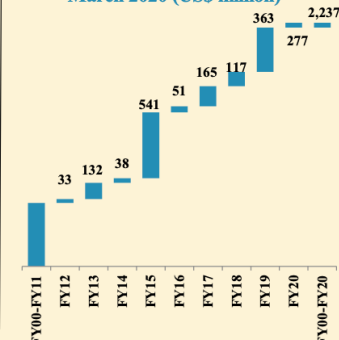
GSDP of Rajasthan at current prices



GSDP composition by sector CAGR[^]



FDI inflow in Rajasthan in April 2000-March 2020 (US\$ million)



Note: - B.E.- Budget Estimate, ^-CAGR in Rs, GSDP - Gross State Domestic Product, GSDP - Gross State Value Added, FDI- Foreign Direct Investment
Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics of Rajasthan, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), MOSPI

ADVANTAGES

High economic growth and stable political environment

- GSDP grew at a CAGR of 10.63 per cent between 2015-16 and 2020-21.
- Stable political environment. Government committed towards creating a progressive business environment.

Rich labour pool and infrastructure support

- Rajasthan has renowned higher education institutions in various disciplines, producing thousands of skilled and proficient young individuals every year.
- State developing sector specific infrastructure, such as special purpose industrial parks and special economic zones for export of handicrafts, IT and electronic goods.

Abundant mineral resources and location advantage

- Rajasthan offers a variety of unexploited agricultural and mineral resources.
- Rajasthan is a natural corridor between the wealthy northern and the prosperous western states.

Policy and institutional support

- Provides several incentives and concessions for investment.
- Rajasthan has a favourable industrial relations environment. The law & order situation in the state ensures a good working environment.

KEY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Rajasthan Start-up and Innovation Policy, 2019

Establish 10 incubators, support 2,000 innovative start-ups, mobilize US\$ 14.31 million of Angel and Venture Capital and develop an innovation culture in the state.

Rajasthan Mineral Policy, 2015

Improve the exploration of the mineral wealth of Rajasthan through various in-house facilities and by outsourcing different enhanced techniques.

E-Governance and IT/ITeS Policy, 2015

Provision of IT for good governance in the state and enhanced investment in IT/ITeS, ESDM and robotics sector.



Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019

Develop a global hub of solar power of 50GW capacity in next 5-6 years to meet energy requirement of Rajasthan and India.

Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2014

Promote investment in the state and generate employment opportunities through such investment.

GOVERNMENT VISION FOR THE STATE

Infrastructure	Agriculture	Economy	Education	Human development	Community	Governance
To develop good quality roads, proper traffic management systems and appropriate water policy.	To create network of canals, develop five international level research labs and address soil fertility.	To promote region wide economic balance and develop efficient infrastructure.	To make education compulsory up to 10th standard, support higher education & research and provide computer literacy.	To eliminate poverty and generate employment opportunities for all and develop a comprehensive Economic Inclusion Policy.	To develop a coherent social environment and execute poverty elimination plans.	To make minimum education & work experience must for politicians, provide freedom to bureaucrats and implement fair & advanced taxation system.

INDIAN PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS IN FIJI



Founded in the year 1908 in a small building in Baroda, it has been a long and eventful journey for the bank to mark its presence across 21 countries and maintaining strong relationship with more than 131 million happy customers worldwide. Recently Bank of Baroda has merged two banks namely Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with itself to forge a dynamic future and became the second largest public sector bank in India.

Bank of Baroda started operations in Fiji on 5th July, 1961. Since then the bank is constantly endeavouring to distinguish itself in the market and to provide the best services to our 122000 (approx.) local customers and the same was corroborated when we won the coveted 'Fiji Business Excellence Award' in 2018 in the hands of honourable President of Fiji. With a robust operational network and dedicated workforce, our Bank is steadily moving towards business development under all segments. Bank of Baroda has its presence in all major places of Fiji with 8 branches. The bank is providing EFTPOS facility and ATM facility through a total network of 136 ATMs out of which 17 are its own. Apart from this bank has introduced several digital products for the customers to do banking conveniently. Bank has rolled out 'Rapid Funds 2 India' for instant and hassle free remittance to India. Our bank has collaborated with Fiji Revenue and Customs Services (FRCS) and at present the only bank in Fiji which is ready to go for online Tax and customs payments.

Apart from providing affordable banking services here, our bank has been in the forefront to fulfil its socio economic responsibility through various activities like donating funds to Cancer Society of Fiji, Blind society of Fiji, Old age homes etc.. Bank has been organising functions to celebrate Christmas, World Women's day, Holi, Diwali, Hindi Divas and partnering with Indian High Commission at Suva for organising various cultural functions to preserve and spread Indian culture in Fiji.

While the bank will continue to remain focused on business growth, it thrives to provide world class banking experience to all the customers and happy to be the ultimate bank of choice for a transforming Fiji, India and the world.



LICI Fiji Operations is a branch of Life Insurance Corporation of India which started its operations in Fiji in the same year of its formation, viz 1956, and has completed 63 years of service. LIC of India has overseas operations in 14 countries.



The Fiji operations of LIC presently comprises of the main branch office located in Suva, a branch office in Lautoka and a marketing office in Labasa, with over 65,000 policy holders. LIC Fiji is the market leader in Life Insurance. For the year 2019 LIC Fiji completed new business of 9385 Policies with Total First Premium of FJ\$ 17.92 Million. LIC Fiji caters to the different segment of the population with about 19 different policies at very competitive premium. LIC Fiji with its operational efficiency and prudent investments has been consistently declaring higher level of bonus every year. LIC has an asset base of over F\$ 677 million, and has contributed in the Fijian economy with an investment of over F\$ 620 million. LIC emphasizes extensively on efficient and effective policy servicing. All the policy payments are made through "Direct Benefit Transfer" system. LIC Fiji is revamping its web portal and introducing mobile app very shortly. LIC Fiji solvency ratio is 368%. The entire 95 % valuation surplus, of over F\$.12 million, is distributed as bonus to the policy holders.

LICI Fiji as its Corporate Social Responsibility has been associated with various organizations and is committed to the progress and wellbeing of Fijians. LIC Fiji has participated in the Government initiatives like Climate Protection, Prime Minister's National Youth Awards, and other such social causes.

Team LIC is committed to take Fiji operations to greater heights.

New India Assurance in Fiji (NIA)

NEW INDIA ASSURANCE CO. LTD, founded by Sir Dorabji Tata in 1919, was part of India's big business house 'The Tata Group'. Nationalised in 1971, the Company today operates in 28 countries and headquartered at Mumbai, India. Our global business crossed F\$ 9 billion & Total global assets approx. F\$ 22.6 billion as on 31.03.2020. We have been market leaders in India in Non-Life business for more than 40 years. We are rated as CCR AAA/Stable by CRISIL indicating that the Company has the highest degree of Financial Strength to honor its Policyholder's obligations.

NIA's Overseas operations commenced in the year 1920. Today, New India Assurance is operating in 28 Countries with remarkable representations at World's leading Insurance/financial centres like Lloyds London, DIFC Dubai etc. NIA has always come forward in supporting the people of Fiji in challenging times such as Natural disasters posed by TC Winston (2016), TC Sarai & TC Harold (2019-20) & the most unprecedented threat to business posed by COVID-19 Pandemic. Our commitment to service through online channels, emails & phones has helped the people to continue enjoying our services even during the restrictions of Lockdown. Our efforts in corporate social responsibility are fulfilled with similar enthusiasm & dynamism as our core business activities. New India Assurance has been able to facilitate a Classroom for Urdu Students at St. Andrews School in Nadi.

We supported the Government's mission of climate change by sponsoring the 'Green Conscious Awards' hosted by FDB bank to encourage the SME sector and extended full support while hosting Sustainable Development Conference in Fiji hosted by Govt. of India in 2017. Being a Govt. of India Undertaking, We take pride in associating with High Commission of India as various occasions & proactively supporting their initiatives of fostering social & cultural ties among Indians & Fijians. NIA also played a vital role in formation of Indo Fiji Friendship Forum to strengthen the cultural ties of both countries through organizing & sponsoring Diwali functions. NIA also promotes and appreciates health & well-being initiative by High Commission of India for organizing regular yoga sessions & celebrating International Yoga day. We look forward to stronger & more fruitful association in times to come.



WAPCOS Operations in Fiji



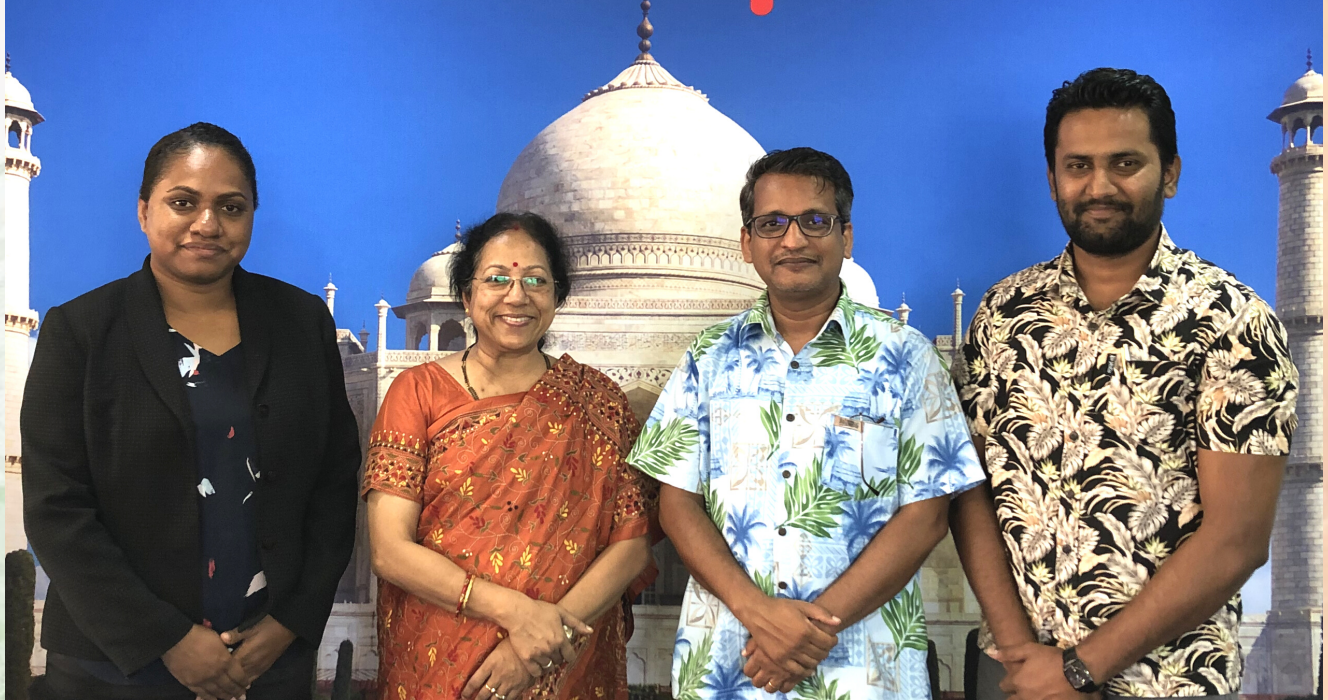
Signing and exchange of Contract Agreement for Professional Engineering Services between Chief Engineer, WAPCOS and General Manager, Water Authority of Fiji

WAPCOS Ltd. a Govt. of India undertaking is an ISO 9001:2015 certified, Mini Ratna-I, Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India incorporated on June 26th, 1969 under the Companies Act 1956. WAPCOS has been providing consultancy services to various domestic and overseas clients, in a diverse range of fields of Water, Power and Infrastructure sectors for more than 50 years. WAPCOS currently working in more than 47 Countries. In the Pacific Region WAPCOS has been providing Engineering Consultancy Services since December, 2015 and currently associated with Ministry of Economy, Fiji Road Authority and Water Authority of Fiji and providing consultancy services in Water, Waste water, Road, Port and Harbour sector. WAPCOS has successfully completed various Engineering Consultancy Projects for Water Authority of Fiji and Fiji Roads Authority within time bound manner and high quality of standards.

Currently, WAPCOS Limited is providing its Consultancy Services in following Project:-

- Professional Services - Client Representative for project contract works for Water Authority of Fiji in which total 30 Nos of project scattered in Central/Eastern and Western divisions of Fiji.
- Review of existing Jetty and Bridge in Central /Eastern, Western and Northern division for Fiji Roads Authority.
- Project Management Consultancy Services for Nasrup S3, Nausuri- Suva 4 lane corridor completed recently.
- Engineering Consultancy Service for Kinoya Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgradation Work for Water Authority of Fiji.
- Project Management Consultancy Services for construction of upgrading Government Shipping Services sea wall Ramp area at Walu Bay, Suva
- Project Management Consultancy Services for Installation of Steel Water Tanks ranging from 1MLD to 5MLD
- Project Management Consultancy Services for Queen Elizabeth and Vuci Road Project for Fiji Roads Authority

Incredible India



High Commissioner with Members of the Publishing Desk

'Aatma Nirbhar' High Commission!

We had been outsourcing large volume of work relating to graphic designing, video editing etc as we keep organizing many cultural as well as outreach activities on regular basis.

In order to become self-reliant in this field and to cut down costs, we came up with an innovative solution. Two members of the High Commission were chosen for training in graphic designing and video editing under supervision of Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Attache (Publicity). The Mission procured equipment and software and established a dedicated Publishing Desk in the Mission.

The result is a team which can undertake all the publicity related work in-house.

All publicity material, logo, backdrop, banners etc for the Ramayan Sammelans, Regional Hindi Conference as well as other activities of the Mission have been done in-house, including this annual publication. The team has already recouped most of the investment done in Publishing Desk and is all set to accrue benefits to the Government in the future also. The team is also training other members in the Mission.

In addition to cutting costs, the turnaround time on projects has also reduced considerably.

Now that's what I call an Aatma Nirbhar or Self- Reliant High Commission!

Padmaja
High Commissioner



धन्यवाद!

Vinaka Vaka Levu!

Thank you!



सत्यमेव जयते

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India in Fiji



India in Fiji



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