

INDIA MATTERS

PUBLICATION OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA IN DUBAI
Volume 05 | Issue 05 | 2021

THE WORLD
CELEBRATES
INDIA AT
EXPO 2020 DUBAI.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE
OF EXPATRIATES
IN THE UAE.

BIRDING IN INDIA.



INDIA MATTERS

Volume 05 | Issue 05 | 2021

Editor:

Press, Information & Culture Wing
Consulate General of India
Al Hamriya Diplomatic Enclave
P.O. Box No: 737, Dubai, UAE

For Feedback:

info.dubai@mea.gov.in

India Matters is published digitally in English by the Consulate General of India, Dubai. This magazine is published once in a month.

The digital version of India Matters is published by the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Dubai. All rights reserved. The writing, artwork and/ or photography contained herein may be used or reproduced with an acknowledgment to India Matters. The views expressed by guest authors in news bites are their own and not of the CGI.

Helpline Number for Indian Diaspora

Call the 24/7 toll-free helpline at **800-46342 (800-India)** or you can email the grievance center at pbsk.dubai@mea.gov.in

Follow us on:

<https://twitter.com/cgidubai>

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianConsulate.Dubai>

https://www.instagram.com/india_in_dubai/

CONTENTS

Cover Story

- 04 The World Celebrates India at Expo 2020 Dubai

Community

- 10 Disability Etiquette - Encouraging Respect for All
- 12 Unity in Diversity - A collaborative inter-school event with Consulate General of India
- 14 India-UAE-Israel Economic Summit on 19 October 2021
- 16 "Whether Self-Belief and hard work does results in success" Definitely - Yes



Legal Consultant

- 18 Marriage And Divorce Of Expatriates In The UAE

Business & Economy

- 20 Dhruva Space AT Expo 2020 Dubai

Snapshot

- 22 Snapshot of Consular services provided by CGI, Dubai in the month of October 2021

Travel & Tourism

- 24 Birding in India (INDIA'S BIODIVERSITY)

Photo Gallery

- 26 Photos from month October 2021

Quiz

- 28 INDIQTIME

FOREWARD

FOREWARD



From Consul General's Desk
Dr. Aman Puri

Dear Reader,

India Pavilion, one of the largest Pavilions at Expo 2020 Dubai representing 'Openness, Opportunity and Growth' had a glittering inaugural programme.

This month, states of Gujarat, Karnataka and Union Territory of Ladakh showcased their innumerable opportunities at this global platform. India's prowess in sectors such as New and Renewable Energy, Space were also represented.

India Innovation Hub at the India Pavilion is a unique initiative to provide a platform for the promising Indian startups to engage with their global counterparts.

Expo 2020 Dubai displays huge resilience of humanity and offers wonderful opportunity for the participating countries to collaborate for collective growth and contribute towards a sustainable world.

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition!

Happy reading!



Expo 2020 Dubai

THE WORLD CELEBRATES INDIA AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

As the economies opened after the COVID-19 hiatus, the world came together once again to celebrate the largest event ever staged in the Arab World, Expo 2020 Dubai. The Expo presents an enormous opportunity for the participating countries and millions of visitors to engage in cultural and economic collaborations for the collective growth of the world. It aims to create a meaningful legacy that will benefit generations to come, both locally and globally, spanning everything from innovations and architecture to friendships and business opportunities.

Among the 192 participating nations, India surely has made its mark since the inauguration of the Expo in October. The India pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai was inaugurated by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India on 1st October 2021. The participants ranging from business and government delegates to enthusiastic visitors, who witnessed India's cultural diversity, ancient treasures, achievements, and cutting-edge technologies first-hand. From age-old yoga to India's foray into space, the pavilion brought

to life a vibrant and ambitious India. The India Pavilion, which is one of the largest pavilions at the Expo 2020 Dubai, features a kinetic façade made up of 600 individual colourful blocks. It is developed as a mosaic of rotating panels that depict different themes as they rotate on their axis. It represents the theme of 'India on the move' and is a unique amalgam of the rich heritage and technological advances of the nation. The highly dynamic India pavilion regularly changes focus along with the themes of the Expo. From states to corporates to sectors, it showcases a modern, robust

India, high on technology while simultaneously exhibiting the beauty of Indian art, culture and cuisine.

To celebrate 75 years of India's independence, 75 stories have been identified for 26 weeks and every evening, the façade turns into a vibrant show with sound, light, and projections. Inside the Pavilion, the visitors get to experience the immersive artificial intelligence and virtual reality, which takes them to a virtual 'Modern India', a blend of culture and technology.

Every day, thousands of visitors come to the India Pavilion and get to experience India's enormous cultural diversity, heritage and the numerous opportunities presented by the country. The Pavilion has been built beautifully to ensure that the world comprehends India's



Expo 2020 Dubai

journey from being a land of monuments and forts to a nation that is now at par with the global contemporary architecture. Besides offering a glimpse of India's cultural richness, the India pavilion has also been crucial in strengthening India's position as a growing country with immense business potential across focus sectors. The India pavilion has opened various arenas for Indian businesses and companies to promote themselves and tap the markets in the GCC region. Various B2B, G2G, and G2B meetings have also resulted in widening India's positioning on a global platform.



Expo 2020 Dubai

Since the inauguration, the India Pavilion has hosted a plethora of sessions across sectors and states to highlight the uniqueness and potential of India as an investment destination. Sectors such as New and Renewable Energy, Space and Urban and Rural Development have been showcased at the Expo to discuss India's roadmap. Similarly, states including Gujarat, Karnataka & UT of Ladakh have created their own legacy at the Expo by securing investment opportunities.

COVER STORY

The sector-specific events saw participation from key representatives of the Government of India including, Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy, Shri Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State, New and Renewable Energy, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Dr K. Sivan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) & Secretary Department of Space, Shri Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) and Dr Somanath S, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and others, who led successful discussions in their respective domains. From the states, Shri Muruges Niranjan, Minister, Large and Medium Scale Industries, Government of Karnataka, Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayan, Hon'ble Minister, Higher, Education, IT & BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood, Government of Karnataka and Shri Kachoo Mehboob Ali Khan, Tourism Secretary, UT of Ladakh have graced the Pavilion with their presence. Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of India also visited the India pavilion and spoke about India's growth and its rise as a powerful economic force in the world. Various states have achieved successful milestones including Karnataka welcoming Gulf Islamic Investment or GII (a leading UAE-based Shari'ah-compliant financial services firm) to India and Ladakh showcasing its significance as a leading Pashmina and Apricots exporter. In terms of connecting the world, the Expo has a special significance

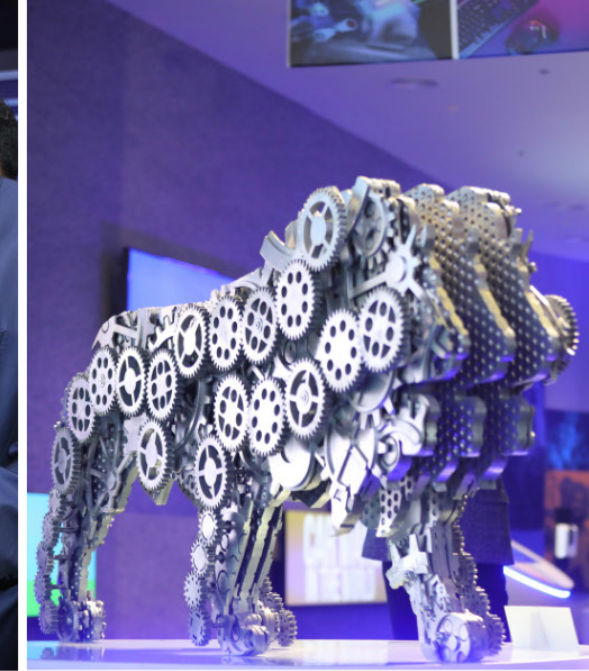
for India as almost 8.5 million Indian citizens reside and work in the GCC nations. The Expo has presented a great opportunity to these expats to connect with their roots and celebrate the festivities with the same zeal and vigour as they used to back in their homeland. UAE has given an opportunity to thousands of Indians to build their lives in the country. Similarly, Indians in the UAE have exhibited their expertise and contributed to the collective growth across various sectors education, technology and entrepreneurship, etc. Expo 2020 Dubai is an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen the relations, expand the scope of future possibilities and aim for a collective growth for the nations. The India Pavilion has also enthusiastically showcased India's warmth and festive spirit in addition to strengthening the economic agenda. The Pavilion has hosted various festivals such as Navratri, Dusshera & Diwali to ensure the enthusiastic national and international visitors get a glimpse of India's rich cultural heritage. The festival of lights, Diwali, was celebrated with colourful installations and lighting

in the form of Swarangoli or LED Rangoli, virtual display of fire-crackers and events including performances by leading Indian artists.

Salim-Sulaiman, one of Bollywood's top music composer duo took the audience by storm with their performance at Dubai Millennium Amphitheatre in Expo 2020 Dubai. The event was organised by the India Pavilion as part of its Diwali celebrations, which was attended by H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Managing Director for the Expo 2020, Shri. Pavan Kapoor Ambassador of India to the UAE & Dr Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai & Deputy Commissioner General for India at Expo 2020 Dubai. India Pavilion is not just one of the largest pavilions but is also one of the 'Most visited' and the 'Most iconic' pavilions at the Expo. Recently, the footfalls have crossed 3.5 lakh visitors in less than 2 months of its inauguration on November 12. Another feather in India's cap is that it was recognized as one of the most iconic pavilions by the American Institute of Architecture.



India Pavilion Dubai



The achievements have been immense and as a country, India is all set to strengthen its mark at the Expo.



GUJARAT

03 OCTOBER - 14 OCTOBER, 2021

The state of Gujarat was the first state to participate in the India Pavilion. During its participation, the state showcased its vibrant pharma sector, smart cities along with its plan for sustainable development and organized many cultural events. Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat also addressed a special session on Dholera SIR (Special Investment Region) virtually during the state's fortnight participation.



KARNATAKA

15 OCTOBER - 21 OCTOBER, 2021

Karnataka Week witnessed the presence of Shri Murugesh Nirani, Hon'ble Minister, Large and Medium Scale Industries and Dr C. N. Ashwath Narayan, Hon'ble Minister, Higher, Education, IT & BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood, Government of Karnataka. The MoU signed between the Government of Karnataka and Gulf Islamic Investments (GII) was one of the key highlights during the state's participation which garnered massive traction both nationally and internationally. Many Startups from Karnataka 'the Startup Capital of India' participated at India Innovation Hub and the Elevate pitching series.





DISABILITY ETIQUETTE - ENCOURAGING RESPECT FOR ALL

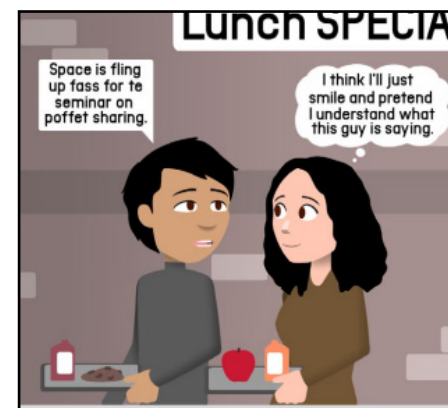
As per the United Nations, 1 billion people, or around 15% of the world's population, live with disabilities. Disability Etiquette is a set of guidelines that allow us to have meaningful interactions which promote inclusion. The first step towards adopting these guidelines is to always show respect,

and recognize that a person with a disability is a person like anyone else. Instead of just focusing on the disability, we must appreciate and emphasize what they can do. In fact, in the UAE people with disabilities are called the People of Determination (POD), in recognition of their strong will and the hard work with which they overcome the various ob-

stacles they face. Like with any other person, when you speak with a Person of Determination speak to them directly and not just to their caregiver. Also when you offer to help them, ensure to listen to their response, and follow their directions. The following are a few guidelines that are important to remember while interacting with:

PERSONS USING MOBILITY DEVICES:

- A person's wheelchair is part of their body space and should be treated with respect. Don't hang or lean on it unless you have the person's permission.
- Speak directly to the person and if the conversation lasts more than a few minutes, sit down or kneel to get yourself on the same level as the person in the wheelchair.
- Structural barriers in public places create inconveniences for wheelchair users. You can help by advocating for wheelchair access.
- Do not use a parking spot designated for People of Determination.



PERSONS WITH SPEECH DIFFICULTIES AND HEARING LOSS:

- Give your whole and unhurried attention to the person who has difficulty speaking or hearing. Allow extra time, and keep your manner encouraging.
- Ask the person or their caregiver what is the best way to communicate. Use sign language if you and the person are both familiar with it.
- Look directly at the person and speak expressively, clearly and slowly, without exaggerating your lip movements or shouting. Also, move away from background noise.
- Many persons with hearing loss read lips. Place yourself facing the light source when talking in order to provide a clear view of your face.
- If you have difficulty understanding, don't pretend that you do. Repeat as much as you do understand.
- The person's reaction will guide and enable you to continue the conversation.

COMMUNICATION WITH PERSONS WITH COGNITIVE/LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS:

- You should treat adults as adults, and treat each person as an individual with talents and abilities deserving of respect and dignity.
- Use a calm and encouraging voice and be reassuring. Use short sentences and simple words.
- Give extra time for the person to process what you are saying and to respond. Look for signs of stress and/or confusion.



PERSONS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT:

- When you enter a room, indicate who you are. Let the person know when you are leaving the room.
- When offering your assistance, do not grab a person's cane or arm as this can be very disorienting for the person.
- Remember that you'll need to communicate any written information orally.



Adapted from - <https://ability360.org/disability-etiquette-tips/>
Multi-media adapted from - <https://www.unitedspinal.org/pdf/DisabilityEtiquette.pdf>

- Compiled by Ms. Meeta Chopra Coordinator PRERANA

For more details and information on PRERANA Initiative - Contact - N. Mohan Chief Coordinator - PRERANA
Mobile No: + 97150 5517848

UNITY IN DIVERSITY -

A COLLABORATIVE INTERSCHOOL EVENT WITH CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA



Delhi Private School, Sharjah was privileged to be invited by the Education Wing of the Consulate General of India to partner with them and organize an ONLINE Interschool Poster Making Competition, on the momentous occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, to mark the birthday of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The theme of the competition was "Unity in Diversity" and the format was designed by the wonderful team of DPS Sharjah's Art Department, taking into consideration every small detail, right from identifying the spectrum of age groups till specifying the parameters of the competition, relevant to each group. We were ably supported by the officials

of the Consulate to reach out to a sizable number of Indian Curriculum schools in UAE, to solicit their participation in this interschool event. The eligibility for participation was categorized into three age groups (from 6 years to 14 years) and each group had defined parameters of artwork and mediums that could be used, relevant to them. More than 100 schools came forth to participate in the event and the schools submitted their artwork digitally. It was indeed overwhelming to see the plethora of amazing talent from all the age groups that made the first stage of eliminations a tough job for the team at DPS Sharjah. To ensure an unbiased evaluation, DPS Sharjah invited the expertise of two renowned artists

of UAE, Ms. Latha Narayanan and Ms. Vrushali Nadkarni to be judges for the final selection of winners in the various categories. Quoting the judges, "it was a delightful experience unravelling each piece of art and quite a task to identify the final winners". There were three winners from each of three age groups, who were felicitated in a grand event hosted by the Consulate General of India in the Consulate Auditorium on 31st October 2021, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The winners received the honour of being presented their certificates by the respected Consul Education, Mr. Ramkumar Thangaraj.

THE WINNERS WERE :

CATEGORY 1 - AGES 6 TO 8 YEARS

1. Anunaya Nija Jegan - Gems Our School, Dubai.
2. Keshavardhan - Delhi Private School, Sharjah.
3. Vyshvik Ovoor Santhosh - Ambassador School, Sharjah.

CATEGORY 2 - AGES 9 TO 11 YEARS

1. Jasleen Kaur - Delhi Private School, Sharjah.
2. Rathana Ramakrishna - Indian High School, Oud Metha, Dubai.
3. Mohammad Zayaan Roshan Ali -International Indian School - DSO.

CATEGORY 3 - AGES 12 TO 14 YEARS

1. Harshith Pradeep - Intl Indian Private School, Ajman.
2. Bhuvina Velmuruga - Delhi Private School, Dubai.
3. Rahimunnisa Sulthan - Gulf Asian English School Sharjah.



It was indeed the excellent collaboration between the Consulate General of India and DPS Sharjah that the entire process, right from being invited by the Distinguished Consulate to organize the event till the final presentation of awards was mobilized and facilitated in two weeks!! It was a wonderful experience and we do look forward to being part of many such collaborations with the respected Consulate General of India in the future too.

Ms. Vandana Marwaha
Principal & Director
Delhi Private School, Sharjah





India-UAE-Israel Economic Summit on 19 October 2021

INDIA-UAE-ISRAEL ECONOMIC SUMMIT ON 19 OCTOBER 2021

Consulate General of India, Dubai in coordination with Consulate General of the State of Israel, Dubai hosted the India-UAE-Israel Economic Summit to bring key Israeli businesses to interact with their Indian and UAE counterparts in Dubai on 19th October 2021. Israel Export Institute and Bank Hapoalim, Israel were the event partners. Bank of Baroda and IBPC Dubai were the industry partners and sponsors for the event. Khaleej Times was the media partner for this event. The objective was to deliberate and discuss ways and means to optimize trilateral opportu-

nity for trade and investment. The Summit was attended by 250 delegates including business leaders, Govt officials and experts from the sectors of agri and food, healthcare, IT and start-ups from Israel, India and the UAE. The discussions at the Summit centered around the possibilities of joint projects in clean energy, infrastructure, and agri-tech along with the ways to capitalise on the opportunities in healthcare and medical sector. The speakers at the General Session were Mr. Ilan Sztulman, Ambassador of Israel to Dubai, Dr Aman Puri, Consul-General of India to Dubai, Mr. Adiv Baruch, Chairman of the Israel Export

Institute, Mr. Ahmad Haddad, COO, JAFZA, Mr. Suresh Kumar, Chairman, Indian Business and Professional Council Dubai, Professor Leonardo Leiderman, Chief Economic Advisor, Bank Hapoalim, Professor of Economics and Business, Tel Aviv University, and Visiting Professor, Abu Dhabi School of Management (ADSM), Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouqi, Director (Mep and Projects and Development), EMAAR and Dr. Ron Tomer, Chairman, Presidency of Employers and Businesses; President, Manufacturers Association of Israel; CEO, Unipharm Ltd., Israel. There were three break-away sessions after the general ses-

sion. The three sectoral panel discussions were on Healthcare; Agritech (comprising of Cleantech, Energy, Foodtech, Tourism, Watertech & Smart Cities) and Tech Collaboration opportunities. India has had comprehensive strategic relationship with Israel and was the first country with which UAE signed the comprehensive strategic partnership. Since the signing of the Abraham Accords, business engagement between UAE and Israel has grown exponentially. Indian businesses based out of UAE are key stakeholders, in the UAE – Israel two way trade and investment relationship which

are deemed to be enormous drivers of this engagement. India is also Israel's third largest trading partner in Asia and seventh largest globally. Though bilateral trade is dominated mainly by diamonds and chemicals, recent years has witnessed an increase in trade in areas such as electronic machinery and high tech products; communications systems; medical equipment etc. India continues to be a 'focus' country for Israeli Government's increased trade efforts. Indian software companies notably TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Wipro are expanding their presence in Israel. Israeli companies too have invested in India in renewable energy, real estate, water technologies and are also setting up R&D centers and production units in India. During April 2000 – March 2021, Israel's FDI into India was reported at US\$ 224.76 million. In the backdrop of the Abraham accord and recent initiatives, the UAE-Israel-India business corridor has witnessed lot of interest in collaborative projects among them. In a first of its kind trilateral venture, an Israel-based company, Ecoppia is producing an innovative robotic solar cleaning technology in India for a landmark project in the UAE. The cornerstone of this project lies in Israel's R&D capability, India's manufacturing prowess and human resource along with the UAE's capital and dynamism for making such projects happen. This is an example of how multilateral cooperation brings out the synergy among the nations, boosting sustainable development accruing benefits to humankind.

Dr Aman Puri, Consul-General of India to Dubai said that the event provided a huge impetus to the opportunities for collaboration in both the public and the private sectors in the three nations with immense potential to work together. He added that India, Israel and the UAE complement each other on

various fronts, especially in nurturing the startups and new-age businesses. "India is the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world and there is tremendous scope for benefitting from each-other in promoting them. While Israel is a powerhouse of research & development and startups, the UAE is also a major country supporting the startup domain," he said. Talking about the importance of collaboration, **Dr. Puri said**, "Pandemic has made the whole world realize how inter-dependent the countries are when it comes to dealing with global challenges of this magnitude. We need to turn this crisis into an opportunity to collaborate and make the world order more resilient in handling any crisis."

Mr. Ilan Sztulman, Consul General of Israel to Dubai, termed the summit a window of opportunities to collaborate and do more business together. He said, "This forum is symbolic as it comes immediately after the signing of the important economic cooperation agreement between Israel, the United States, the United Arab Emirates and India on 'shared issues of concern in the region and globally'."

Mr. Suresh Kumar said, "Israel, India and UAE have very inherent and intense interest in technology and can come together and make innovation the cardinal principal of relationship."

Dr. Ron Tomer stated, "I feel that these three nations (India, UAE and Israel) can complement each other and create a win-win situation that will bring great business for all of us. Our free trade agreement (FTA) with India is underway and we are also now in discussions to sign the same with the UAE."

The Israel side also invited India for investments and further collaborations in various sectors.



“WHETHER SELF-BELIEF AND HARD WORK DOES RESULTS IN SUCCESS” DEFINITELY-YES

23rd of October added another proud moment to our proud celebration of 75 years of freedom as a Yoga practitioner from a remote part of Bihar came to the UAE and performed 24 hours Longest Aqua Yoga Marathon Performance (Male) to create Guinness Book of World Records. Mr. Ravi Vyom Shankar Jha performed this great feat at the swimming pool of India Club, Dubai, UAE before the diligent eyes of GWR officials and the anxious eyes of spectators hailing from both India and the Emirates. Hailing from a humble background, Mr. Ravi became a cultural ambassador for his country as he presented our proud cultural heritage

and knowledge before a global audience. Mr. Ravi started the Longest Aqua Yoga Marathon performance on the morning of 22nd of October, 2021 at 06:00 AM and finished on 23rd of October, 2021 at 06:04 AM. After verifying all the aspects of the performance with due diligence, the GWR officials confirmed his GWR title. India Club, Dubai, provided its space as the venue as a history making even unfolded. A young man with a humble background had travelled from the less known area of Bihar and created a narrative of grand achievements by embracing and celebrating the ancient wisdom of Yoga. Mr Ravi had already created a hatrick of three Golden Book of World Records in

Shirshasana, Padmashirshasana and Jal Yoga. However, he kept his big performance for a big stage and a great occasion. The Guinness Book of World Record was created in Dubai, UAE at a time when India is celebrating Azaadi Ka Amrut mahotsav and the UAE is celebrating the golden Jubilee of independence. While the record making was the highlight, the events preceding and following it were no less significant. While Mr. Ravi had the will, skill and endurance to create the record, It needed careful and diligent planning and execution by KCS foundation, Bihar, India in registering for the title event, finding the sponsors, the volunteers and ensuring that everything went on smoothly.

He had approached the foundation with his proposal. Until this moment the foundation had been mainly working with women empowerment through skill training and collaborating with HerHygiene in promoting menstrual hygiene awareness through distribution of free sanitary pads among school and college going girls. The foundation was interested in Mr. Ravi's proposal and wanted to organize it along the theme of India pride, Bihar pride and Mithila pride. It was before the pandemic struck. However, the pandemic forced refocusing of Foundation's activities and the resources, both material and human, were used in helping the poor with groceries and sanitary items, students stranded away with their rents and the unemployed ones with some financial help. Once the crisis abated, Mr. Pankaj Jha, Founder of KCS Foundation, returned to the event proposal and now the goal had turned even bigger. This event had to go beyond pride to include hope, aspirations, and direction for the people he was trying to help. A simple boy from a humble background and remote part of Bihar can reach a global stage. Anyone with determination and



hard work can rise from the anonymity of deprivation to the heights of recognition. Embracing our cultural, intellectual, and spiritual heritage can lead us to a place within the museum of modernity. These were the ingredients of progress and prosperity that he wanted to serve before all the kids like Mr. Ravi so that they never surrender before adversities and keep fighting for their dreams. He just needed to ensure that the proposal was concrete. This task was assigned to the secretary of the Foundation Mr. Suman Jha who carried background checks and interviewed Mr. Ravi regarding the specifics of the event. Once everything found to perfection, the foundation shifted its focus on organizing this event on a global stage. The idea was

to link local with the global. The idea was that Indian expats are working for both their motherland and their cost notions. This endeavor of the foundation was ably helped by the FOI Events LLC in collaboration with SelexIQ Educational Services, Dubai, UAE. Mrs. Nidhi Mittal (Zebra Crossing Event) played an important role in organizing the event and the volunteers from ET Walkers Group led by Mr Ravi Mohan were equally instrumental in making this event a grand success. India Club showed its magnanimity by offering their space and support for pre-performance practices and the actual event. Once the record was created, officials from Indian Consulate, Dubai Ms. Tadu Mamu(Press, Information, Culture and Labour), Mr. Ghazi Al Madani (Sports Council, Dubai) enthusiastically presided over the facilitation ceremony held to congratulate the entire team behind this successful event.

Speaking at the facilitation ceremony, Mr. Pankaj Jha, Founder of KCS foundation, said that this event was not just for creating a world record, but for the larger goals of celebrating our national legacy, creating awareness among the youth about our heritages, showing the cultural uniqueness that India offers to our global community and giving the underprivileged people back home this belief that great things are achievable by embracing our roots and pursuing the set goals with complete dedication.



MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE OF EXPATRIATES IN THE UAE

- Ashish Mehta (Founder and Managing Partner of Ashish Mehta & Associates).

In the previous two editions of India Matters, the several legal reforms introduced at the end of 2020, on corporate laws, personal status and criminal laws in the UAE, were discussed. Following my article in the last edition, I would re-emphasize that, for expatriates living with families in

a foreign country, laws regarding matrimony and inheritance, among others, hold special relevance. Following legal reforms in the UAE on personal status laws, it may now be possible for expatriates in the UAE to seek the application of laws of their home country. However, there may be

some impediments to such application.

Here in after, I shall attempt to discuss in further details on the legal aspects of marriage and divorce of expatriates in the UAE, in the light of the new legal reforms.

MARRIAGE OF EXPATRIATES:

The key reforms in the personal status laws were introduced by the Federal Decree Law No (29) of 2020 ("FDL 29/2020"), by amending the following laws:

1. Federal Law No 28 of 2005 on Personal Status (the "PSL"); and
2. Federal Law No 5 of 1985 on the Issuance of the Civil Transactions Law (the "CTL").

On marriage, the notable changes are stated as follows.

1. By the FDL 29/2020, the provisions of the PSL are only

made applicable to expatriates in the UAE, unless any of them insists on implementing the law of their country.

2. Further, by the FDL 29/2020, certain amendments have been made to provisions of the CTL in respect of validity of marriages. The key changes are summarily stated as follows:

- The validity of marriage shall be determined by the law of the country where the marriage was solemnized.

- Further, a marriage between two expatriates shall be deemed valid if the marriage was solemnized in accordance with the laws of the state where the marriage was solemnized.

However, there are certain other influencing factors on the application of the laws of one's home jurisdiction. These are dealt with in detail at paragraph 6 (Other Influencing factors) here in after.

MARRIAGES AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, DUBAI:

It may be of interest for Indian expatriates to note that the Consulate General of India (CGI) at Dubai, solemnizes and registers marriages for couples where at least one person is an Indian national. Such marriages are registered under the Foreign Marriages Act, 1969 (of India). However, it

may be noted that such facilities are available only for non-Muslims, and such marriages where either bride or groom or both are Muslims are not solemnized at the CGI of Dubai.

The solemnization/ registration of marriages at the CGI is conducted through 6 (six) steps

THE FIRST STEP:

This is the step to set an appointment and submission of preliminary documents. The list of documents to be submitted shall vary slightly when the marriage is between two Indian nationals and where any one of the parties is an Indian national. The full list of documents may be accessed at the webpage of CGI mentioned above. It must also be noted that as a matter of practice, the doc-

uments issued in UAE are considered to be valid for 3 months from the date of issue and those issued outside UAE are considered to be valid for 6 months, if no validity is specified.

THE SECOND STEP:

Here all five persons (couple to marry, and three witnesses) are required to appear before Marriage Officer at the CGI, for signatures. All such signatories must

appear with their original passports and photocopies thereof.

THE THIRD STEP:

This is the stage for publication of newspaper notifications by the couples. It should be ideally done in a local English Newspaper (in the UAE) as well as an English Newspaper in India. The advertisement should contain the full text provided by the Consulate.

THE FOURTH STEP:

Once the notification is published duly in the two newspapers, the original print of the newspapers (where the notification was published) must be submitted to the CGI. Subsequently, a date, at least 30 days after the date of last publication of the

DIVORCE:

As such, in the UAE, the PSL is chief legislation with respect to matters like marriage, divorce, custody, tutelage and guardianship. Following the amendments introduced by the FDL 29/2020, the PSL is supposed to apply by default to non-citizens "unless any of them insists on implementing the law of their country, without prejudice to the provisions of Articles (12) of the

APPLICATION OF LAWS:

In plain sight it may seem to one that the amendments introduced by the FDL 29/2020 gives expatriates the leeway to freely seek the application of the laws of their citizenship in matters pertaining to marriage and divorce. However, it may not be entirely so, as there are some impediments to such application. These are described here in after.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS:

The language of the law at Article 12 of the CTL provides that for substantive matters like divorce, repudiation of marriage and separation between spouses

PLAUSIBLE SOLUTION:

Given the circumstances, one plausible solution for Indian expatriates living in the UAE would be to opt for registration of their

CONCLUSION:

The impediments apart, the reforms by FDL 29/2020 have largely clarified the position of law with respect to application of PSL for expatriates. However, it must be appreciated that the reforms are still relatively new, and it may be expected that the anomalies, if any, shall also be clarified in due course or even be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

notice shall be assigned for solemnisation of marriage.

THE FIFTH STEP:

One day before solemnization of the marriage, original passports of the couple and witnesses are required to be presented to the Marriage Officer at the CGI.

Civil Transactions Law promulgated by Federal Law No. (5) of 1985" (Article 1 of the PSL).

Following the above, one may refer Article 12 of the CTL which provides that all substantive conditions pertaining to the validity of a marriage shall be governed by the laws of the state where the marriage was solemnized. It reads as follows:

THE SIXTH STEP:

On the scheduled date the prospective couple, along with the three witnesses, need to come to the Consulate for solemnization/ registration of the marriage. They should carry their original passport.

"Article 12

The provisions of Clause (1) of Article (12) have been replaced by virtue of Article 1 of Federal Decree-Law no. 30 dated 27/09/2020, to read as follows:

1- *For the substantive conditions for the validity of marriage, the law of the country where the marriage was concluded shall be referred to.."*

APPLICATION OF FOREIGN LAWS:

Another noteworthy impediment is that of the application of foreign laws in the UAE courts. Primarily, a translated version of the relevant provisions of the foreign law must be presented to the competent court. Subsequently, the law must be simple and easy to interpret not subject to abrogation or amendments in the jurisdiction where it is in force. Combining these impediments with the difficulties of a third jurisdiction are likely to enhance the complexities involved.

marriage under the Indian laws in India or at the concerned jurisdiction they choose to have their destination weddings. This

essentially would be helpful for the expatriates to seek application of Indian laws, before adjudicating courts in the UAE.

DHRUVA SPACE AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

The Expo 2020 at Dubai has come at a time when the dynamic and fast paced growth of the space industry in India has garnered exemplary interest from the international community. The new space start-ups in India have been fueled by the ongoing efforts to open the sector to private players. The International Space Week was also celebrated with active participation of Indian start-ups in backdrop of the Expo 2020 in Dubai. The culturally rich Indian pavilion also has an innovation bus which was inaugurated by a National Award-Winning Space Technology start-up Dhruva Space

in the presence of Dr. Aman Puri (Consul General of India at Dubai). Shri Piyush Goyal, the Honorable Minister for Commerce and Industry was also present in the inaugural of the Indian Pavilion at Expo 2020. The innovation bus has been showcasing different innovative and promising start-ups based out of India. Dhruva Space was visited by over 2000 visitors in the span of their 3 day presence at the innovation bus which includes industry leaders and Government representatives from over 40 countries. Dhruva Space is a full stack space engineering company which has been on the forefront of representing the new

space start-ups in India. Dhruva Space works towards building, launching and operating Satellites and offers a wide array of products and services which are aimed at easing accessibility to space. The extensive R&D conducted over the years is aimed at making India a hub for the future of Space Technology. The vision of the Honorable Prime Minister of India of launching 75 student satellites is also being enabled by Dhruva Space as they have partnered with BITS Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad and BVRIT in establishing Research and Development Centers focusing on diverse areas of Space Technology Research.



INVEST INDIA
NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION
& FACILITATION AGENCY

The Founder Sanjay Nekkanti who comes with the stellar background in building and launching the first private Nanosatellite in India during his degree education days at SRM University was also called upon to be a part of prestigious panels in the course of the Space Week celebrations at the Expo 2020. Dhruva Space not only leveraged the opportunity of showcasing their innovative business but also ensured that their presence is marked with many success stories from the Expo 2020. The company fostered co-operation in key areas of importance with private and government players across the globe. One of the key highlights include the company having taken the first step in initiating discussions with the Chile counterparts for promoting cooperation in achieving space goals with mutually beneficial efforts. Dhruva Space has also been the only Indian New Space Start-up being supported by Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center, which later went on to even give Dhruva the opportunity to



Image (From Left) – Abhay Egoor (Co-Founder and CTO, Dhruva Space ; Shri Piyush Goyal (Honorable Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India), Sanjay Nekkanti (Co-Founder and CEO, Dhruva Space)

showcase its products in the MBRSC Ventures Program at the International Astronautical Conference 2021 held at the Dubai Trade Centre. Sanjay Nekkanti comments "The Expo 2020 has been a one of its kind successful experiences for us. The space technology sector is quite challenging in terms of networking and growth being further complicated by regulatory and protocol related aspects. We are especially thankful to Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Consulate of India in Dubai for easing some crucial aspects for us while enabling our presence. The opportunity presented to showcase at the Innovation Bus in the Indian Pavilion is the foremost of its kind and represents the kindred spirit of the Indian Government in promoting home grown start-ups".



Sanjay Nekkanti (Founder & CEO, Dhruva Space) with Ibrahim Al Qasim (UAE Space Agency)

OCTOBER 2021

17106 Passports Issued

421 Visas Issued

47 OCI Cards

12039 Attestation Services

991 Birth Registrations

178 ECs Issued

128 Death Registered

595 Consular cases

35 Marriages Registered

154 Labour Cases Registered

70 Death Compensation Cases

16 Destitute Housemaid Cases Provided Assistance

16 Medical Cases

32 Air Ticket Issued

10 Mortal remains sent to India at Govt. cost

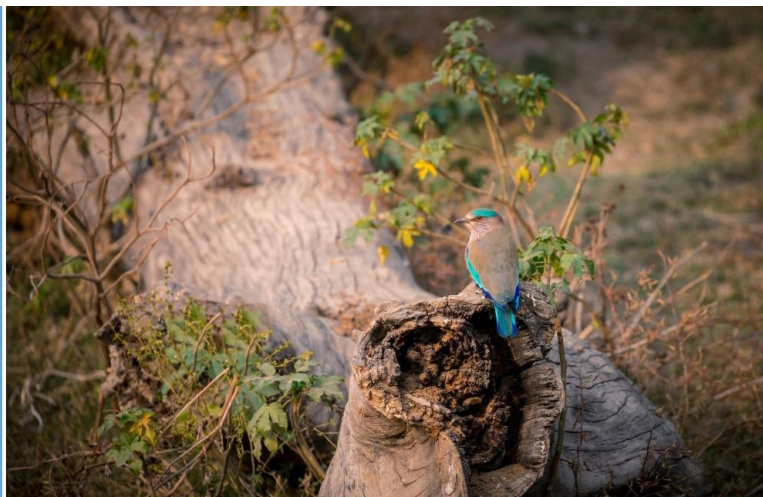
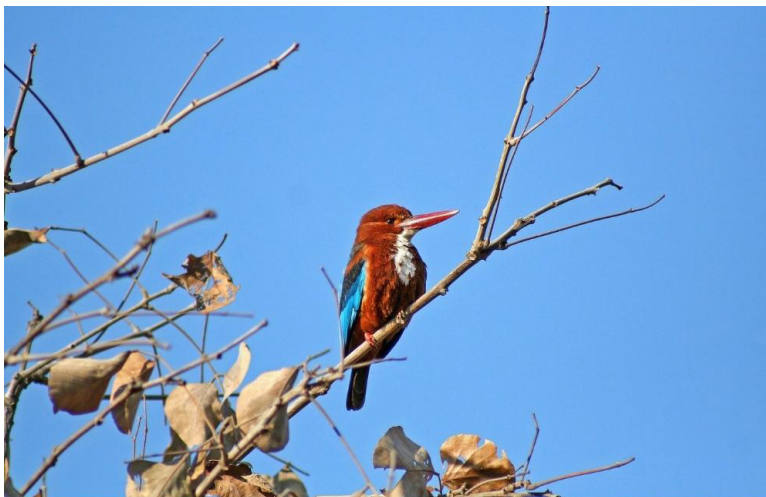
137 Helpline enquiries responded

**Snapshot of
Consular services
provided by CGI, Dubai
in the month of
October 2021**

India's biodiversity is one of the richest in the world. From the Himalayas, Desert, Coast, Rain-forest and the tropical islands; India represents almost all Eco region found on the planet and it is home with over 1300 exotic bird species and to name few Indian Roller, Hornbills, Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*), Great Indian Bustard, woodpeckers, kingfishers and many more!

Birds play very important role in Indian culture. In mythology, different birds are associated as Vahanas (vehicle) of Gods & Goddesses. Birds are also very close to human being since ages and it has always been very inspirational to man's life since stone age to the modern era and from the Stone Age Rock Paintings, Cave Paintings, Mughal Paintings to modern era paintings birds were and are integral part.

Birds are found everywhere from Arctic to Antarctica in different sorts of climatic conditions, varied bio diversities & habitats. Birding not just sharpen our sense but it also brings us close to the nature. Nature education is very important. A travel enthusiast always likes to explore & understand the



BIRDING IN INDIA (INDIA'S BIODIVERSITY)

local culture, to be with local communities and study their surroundings, eating / drinking habits, tracking of animals, birds from the sounds they make, marks on the pathways or scratches on the barks of the trees. It's a fantastic world of experiences. Birding is an activity which helps us to bring more close to the nature and local communities. A visit to a bird sanctuary to make memorable it advisable to carry a good pair of binoculars, an expert or a field guide, if possible go with a bird-watching group. There are approx. 11,000 bird species around the world and more than 1300 species are found in India. Birding Tourism is a billion dollar industry across the globe. Millions of

international trips are taken every year for the main purpose of Birding and India has a huge potential due to its diverse biogeography of different terrains from Trans Himalaya to Desert, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plains, North-East region and Islands. India is home to approx. 91,000 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and butterflies. Lot of efforts are being taken at different levels by the Government and Non-Government organisations to protect the species, environment and creating awareness. India, which hosts to numerous species of birds, ranging from the paradise flycatcher with its absurdly long tail feathers to the brilliantly plumed.

Himalayan monal pheasant, is a birdwatchers' paradise. One of the joys of a game drive is stopping in a quiet part of the forest and listening to the song of nature: the flirtatious call of the whistling thrush, a chorus of crickets; the creaking of a bamboo grove; whispering of leaves caressed by the wind; the buzzing of a cloud of bees escorting their queen to her new hive... A flying lizard floating by.

One of the finest birding escapades on the planet, the misty Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary or the Keoladeo National Park, shelters over 230 species of birds, with thousands of migratory birds visiting it during winters. Sight the painted stork colony buzzing with activity, feeding their young ones and nesting and breeding, get mesmerised watching the Indian darters fight in a flurry of feathers and water drops or watch the Sarus cranes (*Grus antigone*), the tallest flying birds in the world.

Lying on the outskirts of Mumbai, Maharashtra, the Karna Bird Sanctuary, nestled in the lap of the Western Ghats, is one of the best bird watching spots. For those seeking a more in-depth insight into the fascinating life of birds, the 6-km-long Mortaka Trail is an amazing spot with its fascinating array of birds like peregrine and shikra and butterfly life. The Kutch Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary is among the best places where visitors can spot the bustard, one of the heaviest birds. Additionally, you can see black and grey francolins, quails, larks, shrikes, coursers, and plovers. During winters, a walk up to the north coast area of Jakhu will reveal large groups of flamingos, herons, egrets, sandpipers, and other birds that are usually found in salt reservoirs and creeks.

The mesmerising Vembanad Lake, the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, in Kerala, is the nesting site of many migratory birds, which flock here in large numbers from Siberia and the Himalayas. The best season to visit the sanctuary is between June and August as it is the breeding season of wetland birds like white ibis, herons, egrets, little cormorants, Indian darters and kingfishers. Some other not-to-be-missed avian breeds one can

spot are wood beetles, larks, flycatchers, parrots, teals, Siberian cranes, owls, water duck and waterfowls. An intriguing way to visit the sanctuary is on a boat trip that gives a closer look at the birds flocking around the water body.

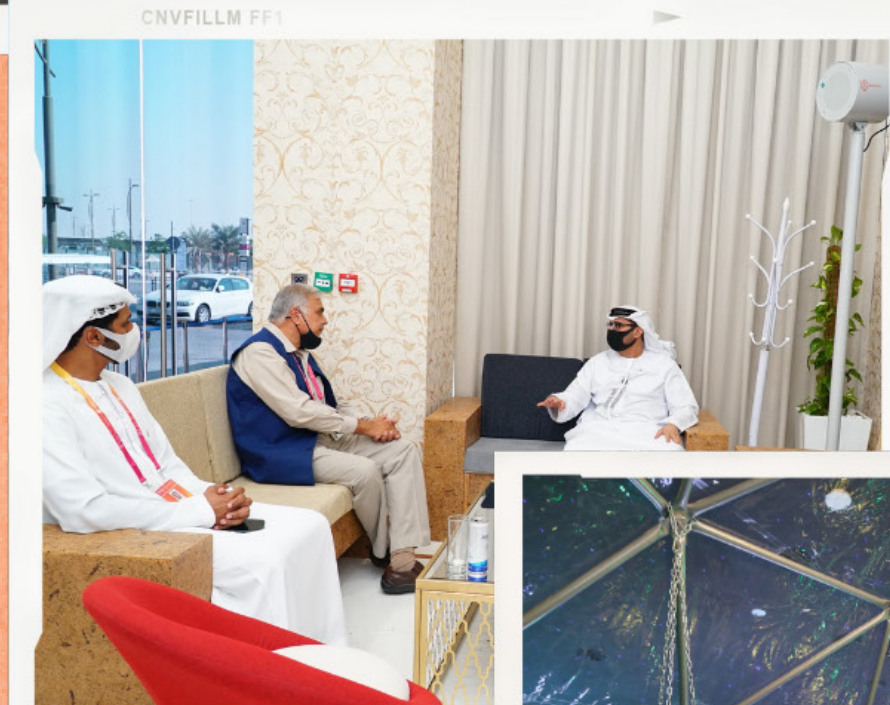
The scenic and small island of Pathiramanal, floating on the backwaters of Kerala, is among the best spots to watch rare migratory birds. It boasts around 50 species of exotic and 91 types of endemic birds. Some of the common birds one can sight here include common teal, pintail ducks, cormorant, night heron, darter, Indian shag, whistling duck, and little cormorant and whiskered tern.

The largest river delta in the world, Majuli has a huge diversity of avifauna and one can spot short-toed snake eagles, purple sunbird, brown shrikes, red munias, white-backed vultures, greater adjutant storks, Pallas's fish eagles, chestnut-bittern large cormorants etc.

The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in the state of Karnataka is a paradise for bird-lovers. If fortune favours, one can also sight birds that come from as far as Siberia to make their home here. The largest wintering area for migratory birds in India, the Chilika Lake Bird Sanctuary, in Odisha, is a treat for bird-lovers.



PHOTO GALLERY



indi@tive

KNOWING INDIA

This quiz is compiled by **Murali Krishnan Sankaran**.

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. As the largest democracy in the world, it has achieved all-round socio-economic progress since Independence. Yet, there is so much to know about Incredible India – this quiz attempts to help you discover more about our great motherland!

1 As India started celebrating Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav this year, a person and purpose-specific digital payment solution was launched in India to boost digital transactions and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The solution is a cashless and contactless digital payment solution – what is it called?

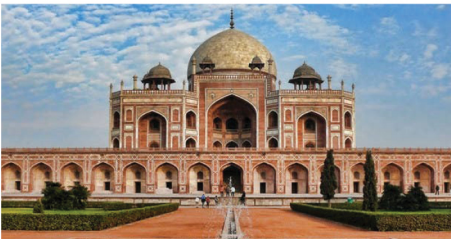


2 The picture shows Nouf Marwaai, a Saudi Arabian National, receiving Padma Shri award from our President in 2018. What is the distinguished service Nouf was recognized for?

3 The Indian constitution is the longest constitution in the world, consisting of 395 articles, 8 schedules, and a preamble and written over the course of six months. Who wrote every single page of the constitution by hand?



4 Identify this historical monument located in Delhi.



5 With which country does India share its longest land border (which stretches for 4,053km) with?

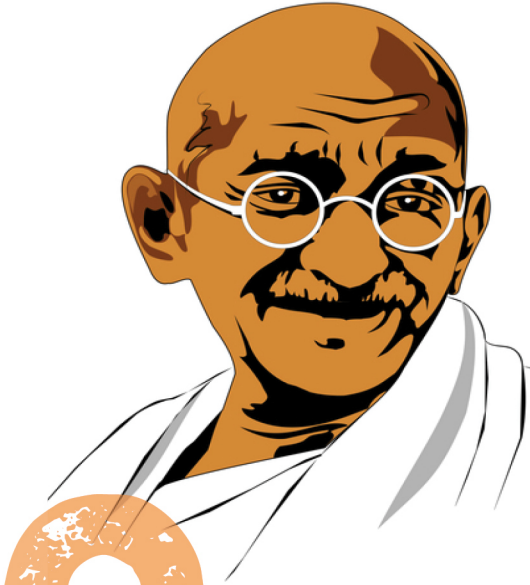
6 Maya, Bobby, Roobi the canine trio pictured here, recently returned to India after serving in the bomb detection squad at an Indian Mission abroad. The sniffer dogs were responsible for detecting many IEDs and also saved the lives of Indian officials and local residents. Where did they return from?



8 The world's highest cricket stadium is situated at a height of 2444 metres above sea level and was built by the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhupinder Singh in 1893. Where is this located?



10 Named after a former princely state which patronized the art, the form of painting in the picture is called _____?



9 Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2nd October is celebrated as the International Day of _____?

ANSWERS

- 1. e-RUPI
- 2. Nouf Marwaai is a Yoga Guru and founder of the Arab Yoga Foundation in Saudi Arabia. She has contributed to making Yoga legal and get official recognition in Saudi Arabia as a sports/wellness activity.
- 3. Prem Behari Narain Raizada
- 4. Humayun's tomb (Majma-i Humayun)
- 5. Bangladesh
- 6. Indian Embassy in Kabul
- 7. The Hoolock Gibbons is only species of Ape found in India and the second-largest of the gibbons.
- 8. In Chail, Himachal Pradesh
- 9. Non Violence
- 10. Kangra Painting



EXPO
2020
DUBAI
UAE



india
Openness. Opportunity. Growth

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT

For the latest news, information and ticket updates,
visit: www.indiaexpo2020.com

