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मेरी सरकार

# Bharat Matters

MONTHLY PERIODICAL

INDIA'S NARRATIVE OVERSEAS

MIT School of Engineering Tech CEOs Roundtable  
with

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

New York | Sep 22, 2024



## PM'S VISIT TO THE USA & VIETNAM

HIGHLIGHTS

India's Green Hydrogen Initiative | India's Cultural Majesty on the Global Stage



“For Global Peace and Development, Reforms in Global Institutions are Essential. Reform is the Key to Relevance”

- PM Shri Narendra Modi

# From MyGov's Editorial Desk

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this new & exciting edition of Bharat Matters, where we celebrate India's vibrant influence on the global stage! As Prime Minister Modi embarks on significant visits to the USA and Vietnam, and we warmly welcome leaders from the Maldives and Jamaica, it's evident that India is a trailblazer in international diplomacy.

This edition also showcases the strength of our global diaspora, with features on the 'Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign' and the colorful Navratri celebrations that connect Indian communities worldwide. We hosted interactive sessions with UAE's content creators and PIO youth from 76th Know India Programme, illustrating the power of cultural exchange.

Delve into UNESCO's 1st International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage and know about India's Green Hydrogen Mission. Read about how India's soft power is rooted in its rich spiritual heritage, with revered figures like Rama, Krishna, Shiva, and Buddha inspiring millions across the globe. This enduring reverence showcases how India's cultural influence has transcended borders, shaping global consciousness for centuries.

Join us as we uncover inspiring stories that resonate with our shared values, celebrating a rich heritage that continues to shape and uplift communities around the globe. Together, let's embrace the spirit of India as we forge a brighter, interconnected future!

Happy Reading!

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## PM'S US Visit

PM Shri Narendra Modi embarked on an official visit to the USA from 21-23 September 2024. Here are the key highlights from the same.

## QUAD Summit 2024: Key Highlights

**O**n September 21, 2024, the 4th QUAD Summit took place in Delaware, USA, bringing together leaders from India,

the United States, Australia, and Japan. Hosted by President Joe Biden, the summit underscored the QUAD's commitment to ensuring a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region amid global tensions.

PM also announced that India will provide support for radiotherapy treatment and capacity building for cancer prevention in the Indo-Pacific. He also mentioned that Indo-Pacific countries will be benefiting from the supply of 40 million doses of vaccine from India under GAVI and QUAD programs. The summit addressed critical issues such as climate change, cybersecurity, and maritime security, with India playing a pivotal role. PM Modi's SAGAR vision—Security and Growth for All in the Region—aligns with QUAD objectives, emphasizing India's commitment to regional stability and cooperation.

On the sidelines of the QUAD Summit, PM Shri Narendra Modi also met Prime Minister of Australia H.E. Mr. Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida & other dignitaries. The PM also participated in the Quad Cancer Moonshot event hosted by President Joe Biden & announced India's \$7.5 million grant for cancer testing in the Indo-Pacific, support for radiotherapy treatment, and a \$10 million contribution to WHO's Global Initiative on Digital Health for cancer screening.

The discussions reaffirmed that the QUAD is not just a strategic alliance but a partnership for the people, focused on addressing pressing global challenges through collaboration and shared expertise.

# MIT School of Engineering Tech CEOs Roundtable with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

New York | September 22, 2024



## PM Modi Champions India as Global Tech Hub at CEO's Roundtable

Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged with top technology industry leaders in a roundtable anchored by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), School of Engineering, in New York. The discussions focused on cutting-edge fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Biotechnology, and Semiconductors. PM Modi emphasized India's commitment to becoming a global technology hub, particularly in Semiconductors, Biotech, and Green development, and highlighted the transformative impact of India's policies, such as the BIO E3 policy and AI for All initiative, which promotes ethical and responsible AI use.

He encouraged global collaboration through co-development and co-production in India, leveraging the country's growing economy and innovation-friendly policies. The tech leaders, recognizing India's rapid rise as a technology hub, expressed strong interest in investing in the nation's startup ecosystem. PM assured them of India's commitment to protecting intellectual property and fostering tech innovation. The session, chaired by MIT's Dean, Professor Anantha Chandrakasan, underscored India's central role in shaping the future of global technology.

# Historic Return of 297 Stolen Indian Antiquities from U.S

**D**uring this visit, in a landmark moment, the US side facilitated the return of 297 stolen or trafficked Indian antiquities, spanning 4000 years of history. These artifacts, ranging from Terracotta to Ivory, will soon be repatriated, reflecting India's rich cultural heritage. This follows the signing of a Cultural Property Agreement in July 2024, underscoring commitments by PM Modi and President Biden to protect cultural heritage. Since 2016, under PM Modi's leadership, India has successfully facilitated the return of 578 antiquities from the U.S., the largest restitution of cultural artifacts by any country.





# PM's Address for Indian Diaspora

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**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a gathering of over 15,000 members of the Indian community in Long Island, New York, emphasizing the vital role the Indian diaspora plays in strengthening India-US relations. He highlighted the deep trust between the two nations, as exemplified by his recent meeting with President Joe Biden at his home in Delaware.

PM Modi outlined his vision for Viksit Bharat by 2047, focusing on India's economic rise from the 10th to the 5th largest economy globally, and the country's ambition to become the third-largest. He shared the government's commitment to reforms that support innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital empowerment, with a special focus on women-led development and green transitions. Highlighting India's global contributions, PM Modi noted the country's leadership in climate action, innovation, global security, and filling skill gaps. India's voice, he added, is now stronger than ever on the global stage.

In a significant announcement, he revealed plans to open new Indian consulates in Boston and Los Angeles, as well as the establishment of a Thiruvalluvar Chair of Tamil Studies at the University of Houston, strengthening the ties between India and its diaspora in the United States.



# Summit of the Future



On September 23, 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the UN Summit of the Future in New York, stressing the importance of a human-centric approach to global challenges. The summit, themed “Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow,” resulted in the adoption of a “Pact for the Future.” PM Modi highlighted India’s success in lifting 250 million people out of poverty and called for collective action against threats like terrorism and cybersecurity. He emphasized the need for a framework governing technology use and showcased India’s Digital Public Infrastructure as a means for global collaboration, reinforcing the principle of “One Earth, One Family, One Future.”

On the sidelines of the UN Summit of the Future the PM also met the President of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam H.E. Mr. To Lam, President of Palestine, H.E. Mahmoud Abbas & other dignitaries.

# Visit of President of Maldives to India



**O**n 7 October 2024, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu met to review and elevate the longstanding bilateral relationship between their nations. The leaders reaffirmed the historic ties between India and Maldives, emphasizing their commitment to a comprehensive partnership that enhances economic and maritime security.

**Strengthening Financial and Development Cooperation** -India underscored its unwavering support for Maldives' development journey, reiterating assistance through the 'Neighbourhood First' Policy and Vision SAGAR. President Muizzu expressed gratitude for India's financial support, including the USD 400 million currency swap and the extension of T-bills worth USD 100 million. Both leaders agreed to accelerate key development projects, including the Greater Malé Connectivity

Project (GMCP) and social housing initiatives.

**Enhancing Trade, Security, and People-to-People Links** - The two sides agreed to explore a Bilateral Free Trade Agreement and operationalize trade settlements in local currencies. Defence cooperation remains a priority, with India supporting Maldives in maritime security, disaster response, and capacity building. Furthermore, new consulates in Bengaluru and Addu City will enhance connectivity and deepen people-to-people ties.

**A New Vision for the Indian Ocean Region** -India and Maldives pledged to create a future-oriented Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, aimed at stability in the Indian Ocean Region. A High-Level Core Group will oversee the implementation of this vision, ensuring timely progress for the mutual benefit of both nations.



## Visit of Prime Minister of Jamaica H.E. Dr. Andrew Holness to India (Sept 30 - Oct 3, 2024)

**T**he Prime Minister of Jamaica H.E. Dr. Andrew Holness visited India from 30 September- 3 October 2024. It was the first bilateral visit to India and is welcomed with special significance, reflecting his long standing friendship with the nation. The meeting emphasized the deep-rooted ties between India and Jamaica, anchored in shared history and democratic values. Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation across sectors like digital infrastructure, defense, and addressing common challenges such as organized crime. Both leaders agreed on the importance of dialogue for resolving global tensions and the need to reform international institutions. Cultural exchanges and sports further strengthen their bond, with initiatives like naming a road in Delhi “Jamaica Marg” symbolizing enduring friendship. This was his first visit to India, and also the first ever bilateral visit of any PM of Jamaica to India.

During this visit, several key agreements were signed to enhance bilateral cooperation. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was established between India’s Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Jamaica’s Office of the Prime Minister, focusing on sharing successful digital public infrastructure to promote financial inclusion and social transformation. Additionally, NPCI International Payments Limited partnered with Egov Jamaica Limited to boost digital payment systems. A Cultural Exchange Programme MoU was also signed, covering the years 2024-2029, to strengthen cultural ties. Furthermore, an agreement on cooperation in sports was inked between India’s Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Jamaica’s Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment & Sport, aiming to foster collaboration in athletics. These agreements reflect the commitment of both nations to deepen their partnership across various sectors, fostering mutual growth and understanding.



# PM's Visit to Vietnam- India ASEAN Summit



During his visit to Vietnam on October 10-11, 2024, Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meetings with Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon. He also attended the 21st ASEAN-India Summit. He attended a gala dinner hosted by Laotian PM Sonexay Siphandone and witnessed the performance of “Phralak Phralam,” the Laotian Ramayana.

On the second day, the PM participated in the East Asia Summit, meeting with PM Sonexay Siphandone of Laos and PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra of Thailand. He also paid a courtesy call on Lao President Thongloun Sisoulith, strengthening regional ties through these diplomatic engagements.

**21st ASEAN-India Summit** -The 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-India Summit took place in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on October 10, 2024, commemorating a decade of India’s Act East Policy. PM Modi joined ASEAN leaders to assess the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and discuss future cooperation. He emphasized India’s commitment to ASEAN unity and the importance of India-ASEAN ties in shaping Asia’s future. Over the past ten years, trade between India and ASEAN has doubled to over USD 130 billion, establishing ASEAN as a key partner for India.

PM Modi unveiled a 10-point plan focusing on tourism, scholarship increases, and enhancing disaster resilience. He proposed celebrating 2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism and called for a review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement by 2025. Leaders agreed to draft a new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2026-2030 and adopted two joint statements on strengthening their partnership and advancing digital transformation. PM Modi expressed gratitude to Laos for hosting and recognized Singapore’s role as the outgoing Country Coordinator.



# MyGov Hosted Global Youth Voices

## Interactive Session with UAE's Leading Content Creators

**M**yGov hosted an engaging and interactive session with prominent social media content creators from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) under the leadership of CEO, MyGov. The discussion centered around the Government of India's citizen engagement initiatives, as well as the inaugural National Creators Award 2024.

The event provided a platform for sharing insights on the role of digital content in fostering greater civic participation. MyGov expressed its gratitude to all the guests who attended the session. Here are a few highlights from the evening.

## Delegation of PIO Youth from 76th Know India Program

Under the leadership of CEO, MyGov, MyGov hosted a delegation of PIO youth from the 76th edition of the "Know India Programme" at MeitY. The visit focused on India's digital transformation, with discussions on initiatives like DigiLocker and the Poshan Tracker, which are enhancing citizen engagement and addressing critical issues like malnutrition. The youth expressed appreciation for India's digital advancements and shared their perspectives.

The Know India Programme (KIP), initiated by the Ministry of External Affairs, connects Indian diaspora youth aged 21-35 with their ancestral homeland. This three-week knowledge tourism program offers insights into contemporary India



# Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign organized Globally



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**T**he Ministry of External Affairs launched the “Swachhata Hi Seva 2024” campaign from September 17 to October 2, promoting cleanliness through advocacy and citizen participation. Over 1,085 activities were organized globally, emphasizing the role of sanitation workers, culminating in celebrations for Gandhi Jayanti and Swachh Bharat Diwas.



# Navratri & Durga Puja Celebrations across the Globe

Members of the Indian diaspora celebrated Navratri and Durga Puja around the globe, showcasing the rich diversity of Indian culture. These vibrant festivals highlight the deep appreciation for tradition and community, uniting people through shared heritage and festivities.



India in Vancouver



India in New York



India in UK



India in Barcelona



India in Tanzania



India in UK



India in Vancouver



India in South Sudan



India in Vancouver

# Diwali: A Global Festival of Lights

**D**iwali, the festival of lights, is not just an Indian celebration—it has illuminated the world across many other countries. In each place, local customs blend with Indian traditions, showcasing India's global cultural influence and its stature as a soft power, uniting diverse communities through shared festivities.

In Nepal, Diwali is celebrated as Tihar, a five-day festival honoring animals like crows, dogs, and cows, and culminating in a day dedicated to brothers and sisters, emphasizing family bonds.

In Sri Lanka, Diwali is celebrated to mark Lord Rama's victory over Ravana, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil, as Ravana's kingdom is believed to have been in Sri Lanka.

In Malaysia, Diwali, known as Hari Diwali, is a public holiday where people light oil lamps to symbolize the victory of light over darkness and celebrate with traditional open houses for sharing meals with friends and family.

Mauritius celebrates Diwali like India with prayers to Goddess Lakshmi, lighting diyas, and fireworks, and it's a public holiday.



In Singapore, Diwali is widely celebrated with vibrant light displays, temple visits, and is recognized as a public holiday.

In Fiji, Diwali is a national celebration, marked by lights, fireworks, and gatherings.

In Trinidad and Tobago, Diwali is celebrated with elaborate light displays, cultural performances, and fireworks, driven by the Indian community's influence.

In Guyana, Diwali is celebrated by the Indo-Guyanese community with diyas, prayers, and communal feasts, blending Indian traditions with local customs.

In South Africa, the Indian community celebrates Diwali with lamps, fireworks, religious rituals, and cultural events, fostering community gatherings.



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# UNESCO's First International Day of ICH

On October 17, 2024, UNESCO will celebrate the first International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage, recognizing the significance of living expressions inherited from our ancestors. This day emphasizes that cultural heritage encompasses not only monuments but also oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, and social practices that are vital to our identities. The 42nd session of the General Conference in November 2023 proclaimed 17 October as the International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



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## The Essence of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible cultural heritage represents the vibrant traditions that shape our lives—dances, crafts, stories, and festivals. These living expressions foster a sense of community and connection, bridging generations and promoting cultural diversity amidst globalization. Understanding the intangible heritage of different communities encourages intercultural dialogue and mutual respect, vital in today's interconnected world.

## Intangible Heritage and Sustainable Development

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage contributes significantly to sustainable development. From traditional agricultural practices that preserve biodiversity to crafts that provide livelihoods, these living traditions are essential for community resilience. Events like Durga Puja, which celebrate human interdependence with nature, promote awareness of environmental sustainability and support local economies.

As we celebrate this inaugural day, let us honor and preserve the rich tapestry of intangible cultural heritage that enriches our global society.



07

# India's Global Initiative— Green Hydrogen Mission

“Green Hydrogen is emerging as a promising addition to the world’s energy landscape” - PM Modi

**L**aunched by the Union Cabinet, India’s National Green Hydrogen Mission represents a transformative leap towards sustainable energy. With an ambitious outlay of ₹19,744 crore, the mission aims to establish India as a global hub for Green Hydrogen production, targeting a capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum by 2030. This initiative is not just about energy production; it embodies a vision for a cleaner, self-reliant future.

This mission not only aims to attract investments exceeding ₹8 lakh crore and create around 600,000 jobs but also significantly reduces fossil fuel imports and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, aligning with India’s goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070. By taking a leading role in this global initiative, India under the leadership of PM Modi is not only addressing its energy needs but also inspiring other nations to pursue renewable energy pathways, reinforcing its position as a responsible global player in tackling climate change



# Significant Progress and Achievements

The progress made since the mission's inception has been remarkable:

**International Collaboration:** The International Conference on Green Hydrogen in July 2023 showcased global participation and collaboration.

**Standards and Benchmarks:** The establishment of the Green Hydrogen standard in August 2023 set critical emission thresholds, ensuring alignment with international best practices.

These foundational steps are crucial as India strives to lead the clean energy transition.

# Economic and Environmental Impact

By 2030, the National Green Hydrogen Mission is projected to:

**Attract Investments:** Exceed ₹8 lakh crore, generating around 600,000 jobs.

**Reduce Fossil Fuel Imports:** Significantly lower fossil fuel imports by ₹1 lakh crore, aligning with India's Net Zero emissions goal by 2070.

**Avert CO2 Emissions:** Produce a minimum of 5 million metric tonnes of Green Hydrogen annually, aiming to avert approximately 50 million metric tonnes of CO2 emissions.

# Phased Approach to Implementation

The mission's phased approach ensures a robust and adaptable framework:

**Phase I (2022-2026):** Focuses on demand creation and increasing domestic electrolyser manufacturing, with applications in key sectors like refineries and fertilizers.

**Phase II (2026-2030):** Aims for commercial-scale projects in sectors such as steel, mobility, and shipping as Green Hydrogen becomes cost-competitive.

Comprehensive Integrated Strategy strives to lead the clean energy transition.

The National Green Hydrogen Mission is underpinned by a collaborative strategy involving multiple ministries. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy plays a central role in overseeing mission coordination, ensuring that various governmental efforts are aligned to maximize impact. Other ministries contribute by facilitating specific aspects of the Green Hydrogen ecosystem, enabling a comprehensive approach to implementation. Additionally, the government is committed to fostering a skilled workforce essential for the mission's success. This includes integrating hydrogen technologies into educational curricula, equipping future generations with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the emerging clean energy landscape. Together, these coordinated efforts aim to create a robust foundation for India's Green Hydrogen ambitions.

# Impact Stories: At A Glance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 16 September 2024, highlighting India's commitment to a green future and its goal of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. He emphasized that the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to transform every household into a power producer. The discussions aimed at enhancing India's global collaboration for sustainable solutions.



The Indian Army, in partnership with the Indian Air Force, successfully executed the world's first para-drop operation of a portable hospital at 15,000 feet. This milestone saw the precision drop of the Arogya Maitri Health Cube, revolutionizing high-altitude medical support.



India made history by winning gold in both the open and women's categories at the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad. It is India's maiden medal at this Olympiad.



Indian men's hockey team won the 5th Asian Champions Trophy 2024.

India has signed the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction agreement for protecting marine lives.





World Rhino Day was celebrated on 22 September. It raises global awareness about rhino conservation, highlighting the urgent threats of poaching and habitat loss, while recognizing efforts to protect these endangered species.



On 17 September 2024, a commemorative joint postal stamp was released to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Romania. This milestone celebrates the enduring friendship and cooperation since 1948, further strengthened by a Joint Declaration in February 2024 to deepen their partnership.



IIT Guwahati hosted the “UNIKAA 2024” conference from 6-8 Oct’24, exploring the integration of ancient Indian knowledge with modern science. The Speakers emphasized the relevance of Ayurveda, yoga, and philosophy in today’s world. Scholars from multiple countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the USA discussed using technology to preserve ancient wisdom. The event highlighted the importance of cultural values in education and innovation.

India will host the 1st ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly from 15-24 October 2024. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs).



# India's Timeless Global Cultural Influence

## A Global Soft Power Since Antiquity

India has long stood as a beacon of soft power, radiating its spiritual and cultural wisdom across the globe. For centuries, its diverse religions and philosophies have inspired and connected people worldwide. From the ancient teachings of the Vedas to vibrant festivals celebrated in every corner of the Earth, India's influence promotes unity, compassion, and understanding, affirming its role as a global leader in fostering harmonious coexistence among diverse faiths and cultures.

## Ramayana

From the temples of Thailand to the ancient stages of Indonesia, Cambodia, and Laos, India's cultural

legacy has woven its way into the very fabric of Southeast Asia. The Ramayana, one of India's greatest epics, has transcended borders, with adaptations like Thailand's 'Ramakien', Indonesia's 'Ramayana Theater', Cambodia's 'Reamker', and Laos' 'Phra Lak Phra Lam' becoming cornerstones of local traditions. These versions, while reflecting distinct regional flavors in costume, music, and movement, draw directly from the Indian narrative of Rama, Sita, and Hanuman.

## Krishna

From the ancient Krishna Mandir in Nepal to the historic Kantaji Temple in Bangladesh, Krishna's worship has deep roots in South Asian culture. This legacy continues with the International Sri Krishna Mandir in Singapore and Radha Madhav Dham

in the U.S., reflecting centuries of reverence and showcasing India's enduring global influence.

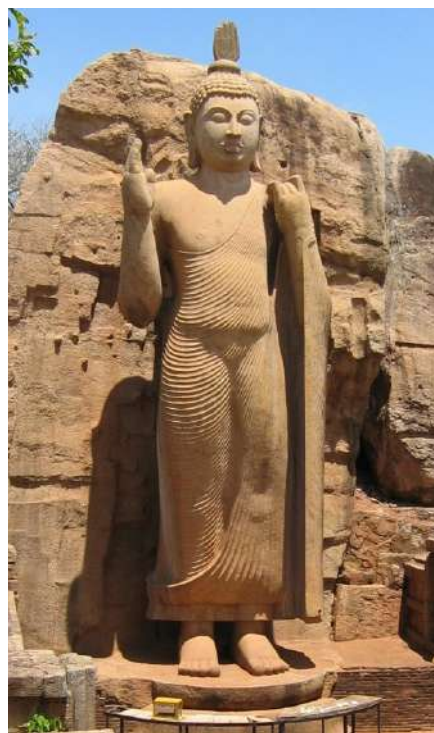
## Shaivism

Lord Shiva, one of the principal deities in Hinduism, is globally revered and worshiped across various cultures and traditions. His presence is felt in temples worldwide, from the majestic Pashupatinath in Nepal to the impressive Prambanan in Indonesia. Beyond Hindu communities, Shiva inspires art, music, and spirituality, symbolizing transformation and inner strength. Festivals like Maha Shivaratri see millions honoring him, showcasing his enduring influence and respect across the globe, including vibrant celebrations in Indonesia, where Shiva is celebrated alongside other deities in cultural practices.

## Buddhism

The spread of Buddhism, which originated in India, reached Japan through Korea in the 6th century and left an indelible mark across Asia. Sri Lanka embraced Theravada Buddhism via Emperor Ashoka's son, Venerable Mahinda, and from there, monks helped spread the faith throughout Southeast Asia. In China, Buddhism adapted and thrived, blending Indian wisdom with local values, evolving into a global cultural force.

India's cultural influence stretches far beyond mere artistic adaptation. It has, for centuries, inspired diverse societies to incorporate elements of its worldview into their own. Long before modern globalization, India had already established itself as a cultural powerhouse, fostering connections across Asia, and its spiritual wisdom and artistic expression continue to resonate globally, showcasing India's enduring influence as a beacon of soft power.





UNESCO World Heritage Sites  
in  
Bharat



Hoysala-style Temple complexes constructed between the 12th & 13th centuries, Karnataka inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List as Bharat's 42nd entry



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