

World's Largest Wooden Charka Unveiled at World's No. 1 IGI Airport at New Delhi

- **Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) installs it at T3 terminal**
- **Domestic & international fliers and visitors to experience the wheel of historic essence and national consciousness**
- **42 carpenters from Ahmedabad built the Charkha in 55 days**

New Delhi, July 5, 2016: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) today unveiled world's largest Charkha (spinning wheels) at the Terminal 3 of IGI Airport Delhi

The idea behind displaying the world's biggest charkha at the country's "busiest airport" is to highlight India's quest to foster an egalitarian society as demonstrated by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation.

Delhi being the National Capital was initially selected for installing for World's Largest Wooden Charkha because all foreign embassies are in New Delhi and the foreigners who visits the airport should pause for a moment and should see the weapon of non violence.

Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who graced the occasion as the chief guest and unveiled the Charkha, recalled the role of charkha, a source of self-reliance, in India's freedom struggle.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Amit Shah, said, he has special attachment with khadi from childhood which he inherited from his mother.

Installation of the iconic Charkha at the departure forecourt between gates number 4 and 5 would carry forward the legacy of promoting India's rich cultural heritage through different artworks at the terminal.

All the existing artworks at the terminal - Mudras, Regal procession, Elephant statues, Surya Sculpture, Suryanamaskar and Worli Art among others - depict and showcase Indian heritage globally.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in a message to KVIC Chairman, Shri V.K Saxena complimented KVIC and said " The Charkha is a symbol of our glorious heritage, and an

inspiring reminder of our freedom struggle, led by the father of the Nation- Mahatma Gandhi."PM further said "I am sure the Charkha will serve to remind travelers at the IGI airport of India's timeless heritage and the values of sustainability and harmony that it stands for".

The four-tone Charkha made from high-quality Burma teak wood is estimated to last for over 50 years. It is 9 ft wide , 17 ft tall and 30 ft long. It was built in 55 days by a team of 42 highly skilled carpenters hailing from Ahmedabad .The order for making the spinning wheel was given to Paryog Samiti, a KVIC unit, situated near Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad.

Shri Kalraj Mishra ,appreciated effort of Chairman KVIC for this effort.

V.K. Saxena, KVIC Chairman, said: "Charkha, like the memorial to unknown solidiers, is memorial to the unknown rural masses, who heard the call of the father of the nation and took to the demonstrated ways of self reliance and dignity of labour. When we celebrate Charkha, with deep regards,we pay tribute and respect to the Khadi artisans symbolically ."

The charkha is the physical embodiment and symbol of Mahatma Gandhi's Khadi promotion. It represents Swadeshi, self-sufficiency, and at the same time interdependence, because the wheel is at the center of a network of cotton growers, carders, weavers, distributors, and users.

The meticulously planned function was attended by Shri Kalraj Mishra ,Shri Giriraj Singh,Dr Mahesh Sharma , MP's like Minakshi Lekhi, RK Sinha, Vinay Sahatarabudey, etc

A highlight of the 40 minutes long programme was that it went off smoothly without causing any problem to the passengers and other visitors despite a large gathering of invitees including several prominent VIPs.

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