

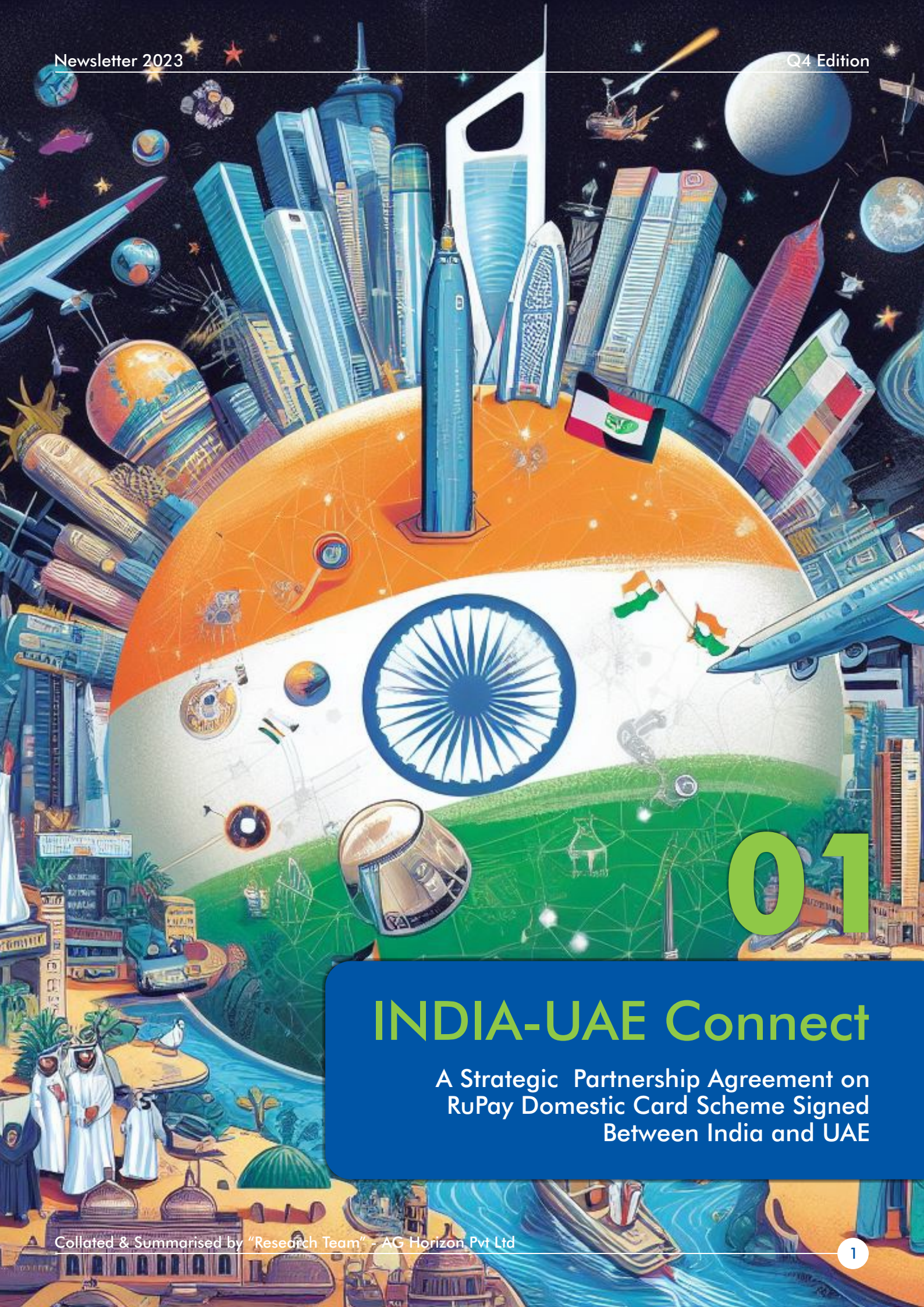
# THE AG COMMUNIQUÉ



Group  
Since 1998

*We expand your Horizons*





01

# INDIA-UAE Connect

A Strategic Partnership Agreement on RuPay Domestic Card Scheme Signed Between India and UAE



Source: <https://ddnews.gov.in/international/india-and-uae-forge-historic-partnership-rupay-domestic-card-scheme-implementation>



Source: <https://www.cnbc18.com/economy/india-uae-sign-rupay-domestic-card-scheme-agreement-move-aims-to-raise-uptake-of-digital-payments-in-uae-17965001.htm>

India and UAE signed a strategic partnership agreement between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) part of NPCI with Al Etihad Payments (AEP), an indirect part of CBUAE (Central Bank of UAE) to promote the UAE's Domestic Card scheme (DCS). The NIPL and AEP planned to set up, execute, and functionalize UAE's DCS to boost inclusive finance, e-commerce, and digital transactions supporting digitization, different payment options, minimizing payment costs, and playing an instrumental role in the digital payment world. The DCS solution is based on a secure RuPay framework and VAS services for fraud surveillance and analysis. NIPL will guide AEP in developing operational guidelines for DCS backed up with India's DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure) encompassing digital payments/identity/data exchange. The technological cooperation between the two countries promises a revolution in UAE's payment infrastructure with NIPL's aim to share its expertise and knowledge.

## Reference:

1. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1964712>
2. <https://ddnews.gov.in/international/india-and-uae-forge-historic-partnership-rupay-domestic-card-scheme-implementation>
3. <https://gulfnews.com/business/uae-to-develop-domestic-card-scheme-signs-agreement-with-india-1.98563241>

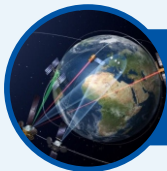
## Dear Readers,

The AG Group welcomes you back on its Quarter 4 edition of the newsletter “The AG communiqué”. The India-UAE connection to revolutionize the UAE's digital payment world has received the spotlight in this edition. Whereas, in the later part, we are thrilled to bring the highlights from the farthest corners of the globe with the recent developments on sustainability, climate change, space, etc for our beloved reader's community. The inside stories will give you a just flavor of the global advances and the changing geopolitical scenario around it that will surely shape circumstances and growth in 2024.

### *Sneak Peek Inside:*



Saudi Arabia with its Largest Sustainable Farm Setting Out Hopes to Reduce Agricultural Imports



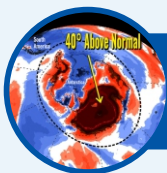
SpaceX Launched the World's 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Capable of Pointing Carbon Emissions from Space



Europe Energy Crisis Fueled Up by Hiked Natural Gas Prices



South Africa Introducing Shared Parental Leave to Promote Gender Equality



Eastern Antarctica Experiencing Prolonged Heatwave and Unusual Air Circulation Patterns



02

## ASIA

Saudi Arabia with its Largest Sustainable Farm Setting Out Hopes to Reduce Agricultural Imports

Saudi Arabia established the world's largest sustainable farm acknowledged by Guinness World Records in Wadi bin Hashbal, Asir region. It uses recycled water for irrigating a 3.2 million sq. meter area. The farm assists in overcoming food security and water shortage challenges by implementing advanced agricultural practices. The Kingdom imports most of its agricultural products. However, after the farm came into existence it was able to produce 20 tons of vegetables and 2 tons of fish each day with around 60



Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2397101/saudi-arabia>

tons of field crops, fruits, and fodder annually. As the world struggles with climate change Saudi Arabia's farm innovation crosses its border to benefit the entire world without exhausting the earth's resources.



Source: <https://bnn.network/world/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-sets-world-record-with-the-largest-sustainable-farm/>

## Reference:

1. <https://bnn.network/world/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-sets-world-record-with-the-largest-sustainable-farm/>
2. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2397101/saudi-arabia>
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1658077X16300996>



03

**USA**

SpaceX Launched the World's 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Capable of Pointing Carbon Emissions from Space



Source: <https://www.space.com/spacex-launch-ghgsat-carbon-emissions-satellite>

SpaceX launched the world's first satellite named Vanguard, which has the potential to identify the carbon emissions from oil refineries, coal and gas-ignited power plants, steel plants, etc. It will orbit the Earth at an altitude of 500 km capturing every spot on the Earth bi-weekly. It was developed by GHGSat, Canada, and consists of a neoteric instrument capable of detecting GHG gases. It scans the light absorption structure that is unique for every chemical molecule absorbing light differently. This can be a great help for researchers by measuring the targeted gases with amounts. Presently, carbon emission data are dependent on the economic performance of each country which now can be better estimated with the help of Vanguard from the space.



Source: <https://www.axios.com/2023/11/13/environment-co2-pollution-satellite>

## Reference:

1. <https://www.spacex.com/launches/>
2. <https://www.space.com/spacex-launch-ghgsat-carbon-emissions-satellite>
3. <https://www.axios.com/2023/11/13/environment-co2-pollution-satellite>





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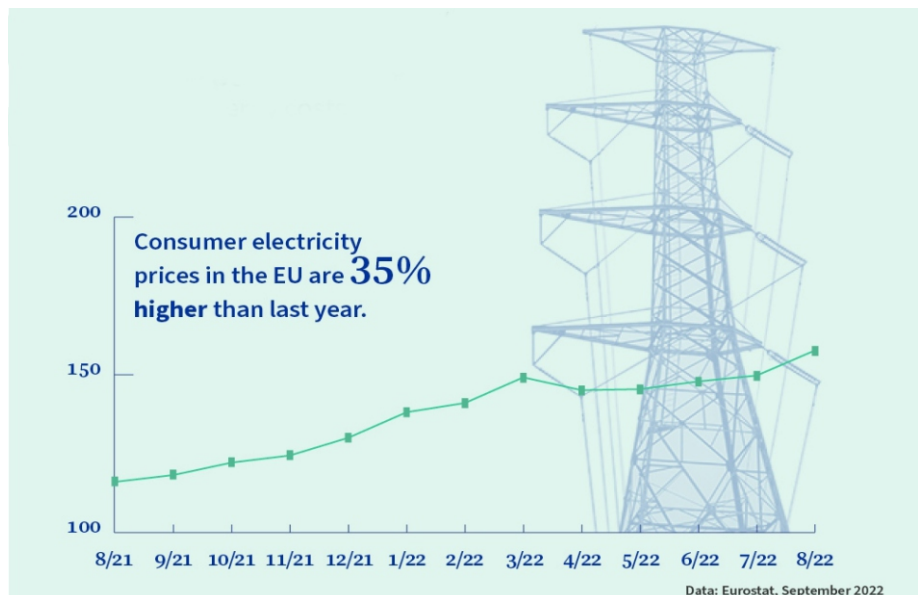
## Europe

Europe Energy Crisis Fueled Up by Hiked Natural Gas Prices

Europe is welcoming the winter in 2023 with mounting fears of disruption in natural gas supply due to various reasons such as the Israel-Hamas war, energy infrastructure, and supply chain vulnerabilities. The hike in energy prices in Europe peaked in 2022, the higher the gas price more expensive the electricity becomes, and the majority of it is imported. Energy prices are estimated to remain high as the demand for natural gas increased after the pandemic when restrictions were removed to recover the economy. Europe witnessed long winters needing extra heating for homes besides the need to minimize the use of coal and reduce domestic production of natural gas. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is a prime reason for hiked prices from a long back as Russia purposefully minimized gas supplies. To overcome this crisis new mandates are adopted minimizing gas demand, gas storage, and installing energy platforms to have various sources of supplies.



Source: <https://pixabay.com/photos/blackout-power-failure-energy-crisis-7644060/>



Source: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/eu-measures-to-cut-down-energy-bills/#:~:text=The%20deliberate%20reduction%20of%20gas,and%20affected%20electricity%20prices%20overall.>

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1. <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2021/10/28/why-europe-s-energy-prices-are-soaring-and-could-get-much-worse>
2. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/eumeasuresstocutdownenergybills/#:~:text=The%20deliberate%20reduction%20of%20gas,and%20affected%20electricity%20prices%20overall>
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421522005316>



## Africa

South Africa Introducing Shared Parental Leave to Promote Gender Equality



Source: <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/south-africa-becomes-first-nation-in-africa-to-introduce-shared-parental-leave/>

In a landmark judgment passed by the High Court of South Africa, **the country becomes the first in Africa to witness Shared Parental Leave ensuring both parents must have the right to devote time to the newborn baby or adoption of a child.** Earlier fathers/partners were entitled to a maximum of ten days' leave whereas mothers can avail of four months' leave. However, **the judgment permits parents to decide on how to split the four months of parental leave among them** but mothers are worried about its realistic use. The judgment is a milestone move for mothers, promising gender equality in African society and ensuring combined care as parents in South Africa.



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/nov/10/south-africa-to-introduce-shared-parental-leave-after-landmark-judgment>

## Reference:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/nov/10/south-africa-to-introduce-shared-parental-leave-after-landmark-judgment#:~:text=South%20Africa%20is%20set%20to,months%20parental%20leave%20between%20them>
2. <https://www.wionews.com/world/south-africa-to-become-first-african-nation-to-introduced-shared-parental-leave-report-657430>



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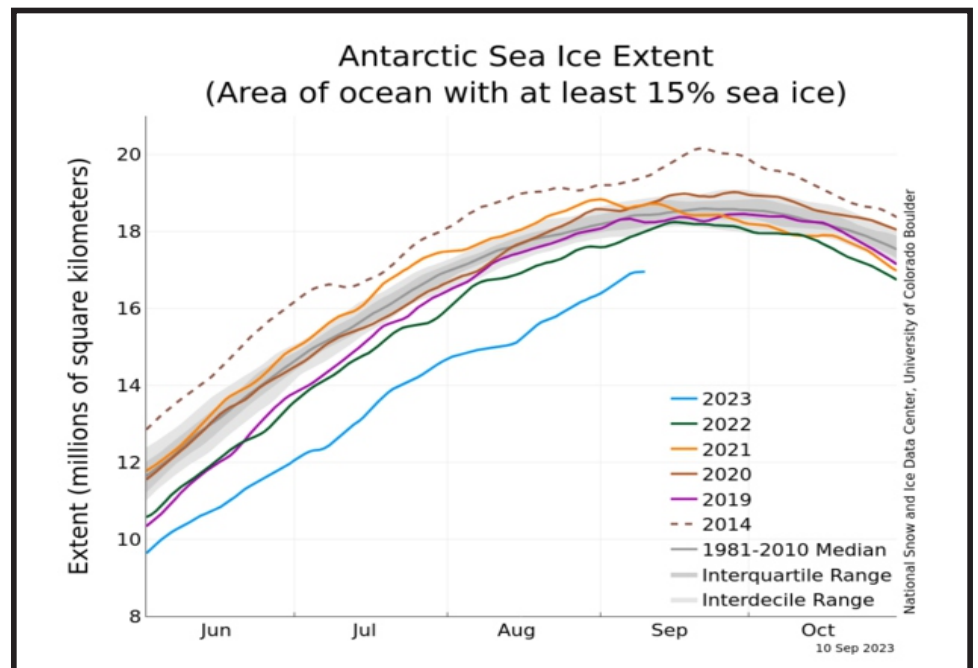
## Antarctica

Eastern Antarctica Experiencing Prolonged Heatwave and Unusual Air Circulation Patterns

The ice extent around Antarctica was found less by 15% on 10 September 2023 observed as winter's maximum ice cover annually by the National Snow and Ice Data Centre (NSIDC). Eastern Antarctica witnessed a significant heatwave in March 2022 ironically in the coldest region of Earth. Unfamiliar air circulation around Australia was the reason behind it further worsened by climate change. Eastern Antarctica witnessed a hike of around 70 degrees Fahrenheit recorded on average over that period, future heatwaves might become warmer by 9 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. The World Weather Attribution (WWA) scientists disclosed that any heatwave globally is fuelled up as a result of drastic changes in the climate change caused by human beings that are severely impacting the ice caps in the Antarctic region and contributing to the rise in sea levels.



Source: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/2023-antarctic-sea-ice-winter-maximum-lowest-record-wide-margin>



Source: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/2023-antarctic-sea-ice-winter-maximum-lowest-record-wide-margin>

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2. <https://www.severe-weather.eu/global-weather/powerful-heatwave-affecting-antarctic-continent-unprecedented-temperatures-40-degrees-above-average-rrc/>
3. <https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/antarcticas-extreme-heatwave-tied-to-climate-change/167104/>

# AG GROUP



We expand your Horizon

AG was established in the year 1998. In the due course of time AG has become multi-functional, multi-disciplinary organization offering a wide range of consultancy services to multiple sectors for implementation of projects under one roof from "Concept to Commissioning" AG shareholders has track record in the development of mega projects in country & overseas in field of sports, hospitality, tourism, flood management, turf farms, F&B, real estate, fashion & clothing, import & exports, chemical & fertilizers.

The integration and coordination of our in-house experts deliver the pragmatic solutions in the today's world. Quality and Service delivery are the key elements of AG Group corporate philosophy. The highly motivated, experienced and multi-disciplined team plans, develop and implement the need of client and exceed their expectations. We can synergize our experience with your projects to make it a success.

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Business Acceleration & Growth



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Programme Management Unit

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Power & Renewable Energy  
Infrastructure:  
Highway/Tunnels

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Horticulture & Forestry

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