

WELLDONE CHAMPIONS

In a thrilling conclusion to the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, India emerged victorious, defeating New Zealand by four wickets in the final held at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on March 9, 2025.

New Zealand won the toss and elected to bat, setting a target of 252 runs for India. Daryl Mitchell contributed a solid 63 runs, while Michael Bracewell remained unbeaten with 53 runs, guiding New Zealand to a total of 251-7. India's spinners, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravathy, played pivotal roles in restricting New Zealand's batting lineup by taking crucial wickets.

In response, Indian captain Rohit Sharma led the chase with an impressive 76 runs. Despite a mid-innings wobble, KL Rahul's composed unbeaten 34 ensured India reached the target with an over to spare, finishing at 252-6. This victory marked India's unbeaten run in the tournament, showcasing their dominance in the ODI format.

India's journey to the final was marked by consistent performances. In the semi-final against Australia on March 4, 2025, India chased down a target of 264 runs, with Virat Kohli scoring a match-defining 84 runs, leading to a four-wicket victory.

Throughout the tournament, India's spin quartet-Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravathy, Axar Patel, and Ravindra Jadeja-proved instrumental in controlling the middle overs and taking crucial wickets. Their effectiveness was evident in the final, where they collectively stifled New Zealand's batting momentum.

The batting lineup, led by Rohit Sharma and supported by players like Virat Kohli and KL Rahul, consistently provided solid foundations, enabling successful chases under pressure. The team's ability to adapt to different match situations and maintain composure during critical phases was a testament to their experience and skill.

This triumph holds special significance for India, marking their third consecutive appearance in a Champions Trophy final and reinforcing their status as a dominant force in international cricket. The victory also serves as a morale booster ahead of upcoming tournaments, reflecting the team's preparedness and resilience.

India's success in the 2025 Champions Trophy sets a positive tone for future competitions. The team's blend of experienced players and emerging talents positions them well for upcoming challenges, with a focus on maintaining their winning momentum and addressing areas for improvement identified during the tournament. In conclusion, India's victory in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy final against New Zealand not only highlights their cricketing prowess but also underscores the effectiveness of their strategies, team cohesion, and the leadership of captain Rohit Sharma. As they celebrate this achievement, the team and fans alike look forward to continued success on the global stage.

A Historic Triumph at MahaKumbh 2025: Reclaiming Heritage and Revitalizing the Economy

The MahaKumbh 2025 at Prayagraj, steeped in centuries of tradition, has once again reaffirmed its status as a beacon of spiritual and cultural convergence. Known for its rich history that spans over millennia, this grand congregation of faith has continuously evolved into a platform where spirituality, tradition, and modernity coalesce. This year, the event marked a historic milestone with the establishment of the first-ever Kashmiri Hindu Visthapit Samaj Shivir-a groundbreaking initiative by Team Kashmiri Hindu Visthapit Samaj Sangathan, led by Ashwani Sadhu.

For the first time in 144 years, a dedicated Kashmiri Pandit Shivir was set up not merely as a transient shelter for yatis but as a vibrant spiritual home-a cultural revival and a testament to the resilience of a community once forced into exile. The Shivir emerged as a powerful statement: though uprooted, the Kashmiri Pandit community remains unyielding, determined to preserve its identity, heritage, and traditions.

Running from January 25 to February 25, 2025, the Shivir quickly became the beating heart of the MahaKumbh, welcoming over 3,500 yatis from every corner of India-from Kanyakumari and Hyderabad to Bangalore and Jammu-as well as curious foreign visitors eager to experience the unique warmth and hospitality of Kashmiri Pandits. The camp offered a comprehensive package of traditional Kashmiri hospitality: unlimited authentic meals, round-the-clock langar, daily yagyas and bhajan-kirtans, and a shelter that provided comfort and solace for pilgrims. It was a place where the spirit of seva (selfless service) resonated deeply, reviving a cultural heritage that many believed had been lost to the sands of time.

Yet, the Shivir was more than a center of spiritual rejuvenation; it was also a catalyst for economic revival. The influx of yatis and the increased visibility of Kashmiri culture during MahaKumbh 2025 provided a significant boost to the local economy. Small businesses, artisans, and service providers experienced renewed demand, creating opportunities for job creation and sustainable economic growth in the region. The success of the Shivir underscored the potential of cultural initiatives to drive economic development, turning heritage preservation into a viable and dynamic economic engine.

Emotional reunions unfolded as families separated by decades of displacement came together, reinforcing the idea that exile may scatter a community, but it can never break its bonds. Such poignant moments served as a reminder that the cultural and economic revival of the Kashmiri Pandit community is both a personal and collective journey-a journey that strengthens social cohesion while also contributing to the regional economy.

The leadership of Ashwani Sadhu was instrumental in this success. Amidst challenges-including a sudden fire in a neighboring camp-his decisive action and calm resolve prevented disaster, safeguarding both property and the morale of the pilgrims. His leadership exemplified the spirit of the community: courageous, compassionate, and ever committed to serving others. This act of bravery not only garnered widespread



admiration but also reinforced the economic stability of the Shivir, ensuring that the infrastructure and services remained uninterrupted for the thousands of visitors.

MahaKumbh 2025 thus became a milestone event, blending the ancient legacy of India's most revered pilgrimage with the modern imperatives of cultural preservation and economic revitalization. It set the stage for a larger movement as Team Kashmiri Hindu Visthapit Samaj Sangathan has committed to replicating such initiatives at other significant pilgrimage sites-including Amarnath, future MahaKumbh Melas at Prayagraj, Kashi Vishwanath in Varanasi, and more. These efforts are poised to not only

restore spiritual spaces but also stimulate local economies through tourism, hospitality, and community-based enterprises.

In celebrating this historic achievement, MahaKumbh 2025 reaffirmed that the Kashmiri Pandit community remains an integral part of India's cultural mosaic-a community that is reclaiming its spiritual space while simultaneously becoming a custodian of the nation's rich heritage and a driver of economic growth. As the echoes of this monumental event resonate into the future, one truth stands clear: this is not merely a success story but the inception of a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

Vantara: A Model for Animal Welfare and Conservation

DR RAKESH VERMA

Vantara is a significant initiative established by Reliance Industries in collaboration with the Reliance Foundation as a part of their corporate social responsibility efforts. Situated within the expansive Reliance Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India, Vantara is not just an animal rescue center; it embodies a dedicated commitment to animal welfare, conservation, and rehabilitation. Its overarching mission is to ensure the protection and well-being of various animal species while promoting conservation awareness among the public.

Officially inaugurated on 4th March 2025 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vantara spans over 3,500 acres, creating a sanctuary that is intended to provide a safe haven for animals in need. The sanctuary is particularly focused on rescuing animals from unsafe environments, treating them, and subsequently rehabilitating them into their natural habitats or suitable environments. Since its commencement, Vantara has rescued an array of animals, accumulating noteworthy figures like over 200 elephants and thousands of other exotic wildlife, including rhinos, leopards, crocodiles, and various species of birds. This remarkable success in rescuing and rehabilitating these creatures highlights Vantara's role as a pivotal player in wildlife protection efforts. While Vantara's mission and achievements underscore its contributions to animal welfare and conservation, the facility has not been without criticism. Some animal rights groups have raised concerns regarding the implications of privatizing wildlife. They argue the established location, adjacent to the largest oil refinery globally, may compromise the environmental integrity of the rehabilitation efforts. The surrounding climate of Jamnagar, characterized as hot and arid, poses additional challenges that may impact the sustainability of Vantara's objectives.

Despite the controversies, Vantara stands out for its impressive operational capacity and the state-of-the-art facilities that have been implemented. The sanctuary is managed under the vigilant leadership of Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani and is fully equipped with advanced veterinary technology, including units for ICU, MRI, CT scans, X-rays, ultrasound, and endoscopy. This

level of sophistication ensures that animals receive unparalleled medical care during their rehabilitation journey. Vantara's dedication to animal welfare has been formally recognized, receiving the 'Prani Mitra' National Award in the corporate category from the Animal Welfare Board of India. This accolade exemplifies the essential role that corporate entities can play in promoting and supporting animal welfare initiatives. Through Vantara, Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation are pioneering a model that blends corporate responsibility with environmental stewardship, creating a benchmark for future conservation efforts.

Vantara's journey embodies a transformative chapter in the realm of animal welfare and conservation in India. The initiative, ushered in by Reliance Industries in partnership with the Reliance Foundation, serves as a model of corporate social responsibility by focusing on the rescue, treatment, care, and rehabilitation of a diverse range of animals. After its official inauguration on March 4, 2025, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vantara emerged as a sanctuary dedicated to offering refuge to animals facing critical threats.

Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of Vantara is clear: to serve as a safe haven for animals that have been rescued from perilous situations. The center's mission encapsulates multifaceted dimensions, aiming to:

- **Rescue:** Provide immediate help to animals in distress.
  - **Treat:** Offer necessary medical care, including surgeries and rehabilitative services.
  - **Care:** Ensure ongoing well-being and enrichment for the animals.
  - **Rehabilitate:** Aim to reintroduce animals back into their natural or adapted habitats whenever feasible.
- To date, Vantara has been remarkably successful in its endeavors. As reported, it has rescued over 200 elephants and thousands of other wildlife, including notable figures such as:
- **Rhinos:** Over 50 rescued.
  - **Leopards:** Approximately 100 saved.
  - **Crocodiles:** 200 units recovered from threatening conditions.
  - **Various species of birds:** The facility has fostered the care of thousands, reflecting a breadth of avian diversity.

These staggering numbers not only reflect Vantara's robust commitment to conservation but also highlight the urgent need for proactive intervention in animal rescue efforts across the country.

Despite its significant achievements, Vantara has faced substantial criticism, particularly regarding the privatization of wildlife. Animal rights groups in India argue that the ownership and management model employed may threaten the intrinsic rights of animals to live freely and without human intervention. Concerns have been raised around the ethical implications of housing wildlife in a private facility, questioning the broader impact on biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Another prominent critique revolves around Vantara's geographical location. The Jamnagar area, known for its hot, arid climate, poses significant challenges to the health and safety of both animals and staff in the facility. Furthermore, the proximity to the Reliance Jamnagar Refinery-the world's largest oil refinery-has raised alarm bells among environmentalists. Critics point out that the associated pollution and industrial activities might compromise the environmental integrity of the sanctuary, potentially putting rescued animals at risk of further complications following their rehabilitation.

In response to these criticisms, Vantara has taken steps to ensure comprehensive management of its resources and facilities. The sanctuary employs a range of advanced veterinary technologies, including units specially designed for critical care-ICU, MRI, CT scans, X-rays, ultrasound, and endoscopy-which ensures that rescued animals receive high-quality medical attention. Management under the skilled oversight of Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani has further solidified Vantara's commitment to not only address but proactively engage with the challenges it faces. The center aims to balance animal welfare with environmental responsibility, fostering transparency and collaboration with local and international wildlife organizations.

The significance of Vantara's efforts extends beyond its local impact, earning recognition at national levels. The facility was conferred the prestigious 'Prani Mitra' National Award in the corporate category by the Animal Welfare Board of India. This accolade exemplifies the importance of corporate involvement in animal welfare and

demonstrates that systematic, ethical practices can yield tangible benefits for conservation efforts. In summary, Vantara's legacy hinges on a dual commitment: the protection and rehabilitation of distressed wildlife and addressing the ethical responsibilities associated with animal treatment. Through its achievements and ongoing challenges, Vantara stands as a prominent model, highlighting the intersection of corporate responsibility and environmental stewardship.

Vantara operates under the forward-thinking management of Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani, a prominent business leader known for his visionary approach to corporate social responsibility. Under Ambani's stewardship, Vantara has not merely sought to function as an animal rescue center but has transformed into an emblematic model for how large corporations can engage positively with environmental and animal welfare issues. The management structure facilitates the efficient operation of the center, ensuring that both the animals and the staff work within a supportive environment conducive to health and well-being. A cornerstone of Vantara's success lies in its state-of-the-art veterinary technology. The center is outfitted with advanced medical equipment that includes: Intensive Care Units (ICU): These facilities are crucial for monitoring and treating the most critically ill animals. MRI and CT Scans: Essential for diagnosing complex health issues and planning surgical interventions with precision. X-Ray Machines: Used for assessing fractures and internal injuries, vital for timely medical interventions. Ultrasound Units: Beneficial for non-invasive examinations, particularly useful in pregnant animals or those with abdominal issues. Endoscopy Equipment: Allows for minimally invasive surgeries and detailed examinations of the internal structures of animals. Animals rescued from dire situations often present with unique and complex health challenges; thus, the ability to diagnose and treat these conditions effectively is paramount. For example, an MRI or CT scan can help prevent unnecessary surgeries by providing detailed insights into an animal's condition, while ultrasound can help veterinarians check for internal complications without invasive procedures.

The utilization of sophisticated veterinary technology at Vantara underscores the center's commitment to exemplary animal care. By leveraging these tools, veterinarians can ensure prompt and accurate diagnoses, thereby greatly improving the chances of recovery for the rescued animals. The presence of an ICU enables round-the-clock surveillance of critically ill animals, allowing for quick intervention in emergencies. Furthermore, having access to such equipment attracts skilled veterinary professionals who are keen to work in a technologically advanced environment. This, in turn, enhances the quality of care provided as they can employ innovative treatment options and protocols. Efficient management and the use of advanced technologies not only foster animal rehabilitation and recovery but also create a body of knowledge that can extend beyond Vantara. Through research and collaboration with other wildlife organizations, the center contributes to the broader field of animal medicine and welfare. Ultimately, this commitment ensures that Vantara remains at the forefront of compassionate animal care and conservation.

Vantara's dedication to animal welfare has garnered significant recognition, most notably with the prestigious 'Prani Mitra' National Award bestowed upon it by the Animal Welfare Board of India. This award is granted to institutions that have made outstanding contributions in the field of animal welfare. Vantara's receipt of this accolade underscores the vital role corporate programs can play in advancing animal rescue and conservation initiatives. The 'Prani Mitra' National Award is a mark of excellence, representing acknowledgment from the Government of India for exemplary efforts towards animal welfare. This award not only validates Vantara's operational efficiency but also serves as an inspiration for other corporate entities to actively engage in environmental and social responsibility. The significance includes: Enhanced Credibility: The award affirms Vantara's commitment to ethical practices in animal rescue, fostering trust among stakeholders, including the public, policy-makers, and conservationists. Inspiration for Corporate Responsibility: Vantara sets a precedent in corporate social responsibility, encouraging other companies to allocate resources towards animal welfare initiatives,

thereby integrating conservation into their business models. Public Awareness: By receiving such a prominent award, Vantara raises public consciousness about animal welfare issues, promoting greater societal interest in conservation efforts.

Since its inception, Vantara has made significant strides in animal conservation, reflecting its capabilities as a leading facility in animal rescue and rehabilitation. Some of its notable efforts include: Rescue and Rehabilitation: Successfully rescuing and rehabilitating over 200 elephants, hundreds of rhinos, leopards, and numerous bird species, indicating Vantara's broad impact on biodiversity. Advanced Care Facilities: Vantara is equipped with sophisticated veterinary technologies, fostering comprehensive medical treatment for rescued animals, thus enhancing their chances of recovery. Community Engagement: Vantara actively participates in public education initiatives, raising awareness about the importance of wildlife protection and the symbiotic relationship between corporate efforts and environmental stewardship. The recognition through the 'Prani Mitra' National Award further solidifies Vantara's status as a leader in the field, highlighting not only its accomplishments but also its profound implications for the future of corporate involvement in animal welfare and conservation policies.

Vantara has made a profound impact on the local ecosystem and animal conservation efforts, serving as a significant habitat for an array of wildlife. By rescuing and rehabilitating animals like elephants, rhinos, leopards, and various birds, Vantara contributes to preserving biodiversity within its surrounding environment. This initiative not only provides medical care and rehabilitation but also plays a crucial role in raising awareness about the vulnerabilities faced by wildlife in a rapidly changing climate and industrial landscape. Vantara has achieved notable milestones in conservation, which include: Rescued Species: Successfully rehabilitating over 200 elephants, along with hundreds of other animals including rhinos and leopards. Ecosystem Awareness: Enhancing public understanding of wildlife conservation challenges through educational initiatives. Research Collaborations: Partnering with veterinary professionals to facilitate research on animal health and welfare.