the nation in 2005 in parlia-

ment, saying that the violence was 'the negation of the con-

cept of *nationhood* enshrined in our *constitution*.' "I have no

hesitation in apologising to

the Sikh community. I apolo-

gise not only to the Sikh com-

munity, but to the whole

Indian nation," he said. No

other prime minister, particu-

larly from the Congress party,

had gone this far to apologise

in parliament for the riots.

राष्ट्रदुत

#CAR DEKHO

The Most Reliable Cars You Can Buy In 2025

Most people have the same three things as their top priorities when buying a new car, price, fuel economy and reliability.



enerally speaking, most people have the same three things as their top priorities when buyfuel economy and reliability. Price is pretty easy to check even if you know it may change depending on the dealer you go to, and so is fuel economy. Reliability, on the other hand, is a little more complicated. You could spend hours on forums trying to figure that one out for yourself, or check out our list sorted, just for your convenience. There are

2024 Toyota Prius Reliability Score: 76

ne hybrid that took hybrid's mainstream has been redesigned with more power and a stylish new design. In addition to its great fuel economy, consumer praise the Toyota Prius's acceleration, the practicality of its liftback design and Toyota's decision to add allwheel drive as an option.

here and there, but if reliability is your top concern, this list of the most reliable vehicles is a great place to start.

Toyota Corolla Hybrid





f you just want the least-expensive new car that you can buy, which also gets the best gas mileage possible, you're going to have a hard time beating the Corolla Hybrid. Its comfortable

The 2024 Lexus NX 350h AWD



he Lexus NX Hybrid is one of our favourite luxury compact crossovers. It is being considered as best choice for both its fit and finish and the 38 mpg that it got overall in the outlet's independent fuel economy test. It may be a fancy RAV4 underneath, but that's not exactly a bad thing.

2024 Hyundai Elantra Hybrid



he Elantra Hybrid is not only more reliable than the Corolla Hybrid, but it's also a better car in general. That said, it will cost you a little more than the Toyota.

BMW i4 eDrive40

Reliability Score: 82



f there's one EV that we all love, it's the BMW i4. It's proven to lacksquare be incredibly reliable, performes incredibly well, overall, and comes with high ownership satisfaction, while still being quick



and he began the financial

makeover of the country.

Although again he led a coalition,

ahead with liberalization and eco-

nomic reforms, unrestricted. He

steered this new mandate with for

probably stood him in good stead

At one time, he was asked by

some journalist as to why

did he not write his mem-

oirs? To which he replied,

"Truth hurts. And I don't

want to hurt anyone." "You

are a minority government,

he was accused, and ques-

tioned in parliament. That

day, the chief editor of

Rashtradoot was attending

parliament, and he recounts

to us, "Manmohan Singh,

that day, was fielded to

defend the minority govern-

dence motion. He gave a soft

speech explaining govern-

ment position, as expected

of this soft spoken man, but

to the biting attack about

the strength of his coalition

he replied, "मैं अकेला ही चला था

जानिब-ए-मंजिल मगर लोग साथ

भाते गए और कारवाँ बनता

गया""A stunned parliament

reacted only after a minute's

on former Indian Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh's contribution

to the country since his death on

Thursday evening. He held the

top post for two consecutive

terms between 2004 and 2014, was

seen as an architect of India's

economic liberalisation, which

changed the country's growth

Jawaharlal Nehru to return to

power. Singh was also the first

Known as a soft-spoken tech

nocrat, he had earlier headed

India's Central Bank, served as a

Finance Secretary and minister,

and led the opposition in the

Singh's life that shaped his career

and had a lasting impact on more

Here are milestones from

Sikh to assume the top office.

upper house of parliament.

The first Prime Minister since

traiectory

People in India are reflecting

ment against a no confi

titude, where his lack of speech

but he earned the mandate to go

arguments and position with

America and now had to convince

his coalition partners. They were

being tough. The proposed matter

was being sent back and forth

between Manmohan and the left

partners, who were demanding

major changes, which were not

possible, if the matter had to go

through. In any compromise,

there are two parties to consider,

here, America and India. Finally,

it came about that the left warned

him that the support will be with-

leader of the party, was dithering,

almost ready to compromise with

the left, seeing the impending

downfall of the government. The

man who was called 'the reluctant

prime minister,' because he was

selected to lead the parliament, in

place of Sonia Gandhi, who born a

oreigner, was having to give up on

the post. Rahul Gandhi had put

his foot down on it, threatening

suicide, as the sequence of events

described by Neeria Chaudhary in

her book 'How Prime Ministers

decide.' Rahul had firmly said to

his mother that she has to step

aside, as he had already lost father,

and the next target was his moth-

er. The impending fall of the gov-

ernment was clear. Manmohan

decided to go ahead. In spite of the

possible turn of events, he said,

"So be it." A resounding state-

the next campaign, where he

explained to the electorate why

this was the only answer to India's

situation. He spoke it, and so well

that Congress came back to power,

The government fell. He led

Sonia Gandhi, who was the

Senior Journalist &

Vildlife Enthusiast

e spoke little, and

too softly for his

times, when to be

heard above all

craft. He paid a

present is a coveted

price to be that way

He was called many

names, all alluding

to his lost acoustics.

He was accommo-

dating in his mannerisms, and

this should have been appreciated

in political circles, in so much as

no party at the time or for some time before him, could lay claim to

majority. So, being accommoda-

tive was the need of the hour, or

let's say many hours. But that too

was a non-starter for him. In many ways, he sat on a very

uncomfortable chair, with dignity,

which places him above a bevy of

did what was needed with a firm

hand. Faced with arriving at a

solution about India not having

signed the non-proliferation

treaty, and still going ahead with

our program, doing away with

gous challenge. Congress was a

coalition government, supported

by the left, who had a basic differ-

ence with America and its poli-

cies. Manmohan softly steered his

American sanctions was a humon-

He did not speak. Yes, but he

contemporaries.

The Silent Man

Sonia Gandhi, who was the leader of the party, was dithering, almost ready to compromise with the left, seeing the impending downfall of the government. The man who was called 'the reluctant prime minister,' because he was selected to lead the parliament, in place of Sonia Gandhi, who born a foreigner, was having to give up on the post. Rahul Gandhi had put his foot down on it, threatening suicide, as the sequence of events described by Neerja Chaudhary in her book 'How Prime Ministers decide.' Rahul had firmly said to his mother that she has to step aside, as he had already lost father, and the next target was his mother. The impending fall of the government was clear. Manmohan decided to go ahead. In spite of the possible turn of events, he said, "So be it." A resounding statement.

#"SO BE IT"

Economic Liberalisation

nigh led the initiative to deregulate the economy in the 1990s. Singh was appointed Finance minister in 1991 by the Congress partyled government under Prime Minister P. V. Narsimha Rao.

India's economy at the time was facing a serious financial crisis, with the country's foreign reserves at a dangerously low level, barely enough to pay for two weeks of imports. Singh led the initiative to deregulate the economy to avoid its collapse, which he argued was otherwise imminent. Despite stiff opposition from members of his govern-

He took bold measures that included devaluing the currency, reducing import tariffs and privatising state-owned companies. He was famously quoted as saying in parliament during his first budget speech in 1991 that "no power on Earth can stop an idea whose time has come." Later, as Prime Minister, Singh continued to build on his economic reform measures, lifting millions of Indians out of poverty and contributing to India's rise as one of the world's fastest growing major

Reluctant Prime Minister

opposition parties often criticised Singh for taking directions from the Gandhi family, but he always ignored the jibes. Singh often refused to comment on such allegations and kept his focus on the job. He may have started his first stint as prime minister with some reluctance, but he soon stamped his authority on the top job. Singh's tenure, particularly between 2004 and 2009, saw the country's GDP grow at a healthy average pace of around 8%, the second fastest among major economies. He took bold decisions on reforms and brought more foreign investment into the country. Experts credit him for shielding India from the 2008 global financial

crisis. But his second term, in an alliance with a disparate group of parties, was marked by allegations of corruption against some of his cabinet ministers, though his personal integrity was never questioned. In response to these allegations, he told journalists in 2014 in his last press conference as Prime Minister that he hoped history would judge him differently. "I honestly believe that history will be kinder to me than the contemporary media, or for that matter, the opposition parties in parliament,' he said. "I think taking into account the circumstances and the compulsions of a coalition polity, I have done as best as I could do under the circumstances."

Rights to Education, Information and Identity

ingh introduced laws that had a far-reaching impact on Indian democracy. As Prime Minister, Singh took several farreaching decisions that continue to impact the health of Indian democracy even today. He introduced new laws that strengthened and guaranteed the right to seek information from the government, allowing citizens an extraordinary power to hold officials accountable. He also introduced a Rural Employment scheme, which guaranteed livelihood for a minimum of 100 days, a measure that economists said

had a profound impact on rural incomes and poverty reduction. He also brought in a law that guaranteed the right to free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 and 14. significantly reducing the school dropout rates. His government also introduced a unique identity project called *Aadhar*, to improve financial inclusion and delivery of welfare benefits to the poor. The current federal government, run by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has continued to keep Aadhar as a cornerstone for

ment and party, Singh prevailed.

ingh signed a historic deal with the US in 2008 to end India's nuclear isolation. Singh signed a historic deal with the US in 2008 to end India's nuclear isolation after

T n 1984, Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards

to avenge a military action

Sikhism's holiest temple in

Her death sparked mas-

sive violence that resulted in

the death of more than 3.000

Sikhs and a widespread

destruction of their property.

Singh formally apologised to

northern India's Amritsar.

hiding

separatists,

help meet India's growing energy needs and sustain its healthy growth rate. The deal, seen as a watershed moment in the India-US relations. promised to grant a waiver to India to commence civilian its 1998 testing of the weapon system. His government nuclear trade with the US and



rowing up poor, Singh was widely respected for his personal integrity and humility. However, a series of corruption scandals against his ministers in his second term had tarnished his image, though he was never accused of being corrup himself. Singh is survived by

his wife and three daughters, as also a whole community of progress seekers, who can bravely and with astute calculation, decide to change a safe-looking much walked path, to a new way of life for Indians.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



Universe is Expanding Faster than we

Thought

The findings

suggest that astronomers widely accepted cosmology models might be missing something meaning the longstanding mystery, known as the 'Hubble tension,' continues.

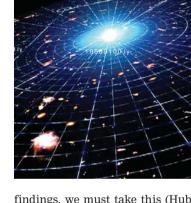


stronomers have long understood that the universe is expanding. In other words, the space in between cosmic objects that aren't bound by gravity, is getting ever more vast. Then, in 1998, scientists discovered that the universe's rate of expansion is accelerating.

In the years since, researchers, using the Hubble Space Telescope, have observed that the current expansion rate, called the Hubble constant, is faster than what standard cosmology models estimate it should be. This mystery of inconsistent measurements has been dubbed the Hubble tension

Now, a team of researchers has used data from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to confirm Hubble's measurements, and thus, the mystery persists. Their study suggests that the discrepancy may be caused by an as-yet unknown feature in the universe, rather than an error in telescope measurement. The finding "suggests that our

understanding of the universe may be incomplete," Adam Riess, an Astrophysicist at Johns Hopkins University and lead author of the study, says in a statement. Riess coreceived the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering that the universe's expansion is accelerating in 1998. "With two NASA flagship telescopes now confirming each other's



findings, we must take this (Hubble tension) problem very seriously. It's a challenge but also an incredible opportunity to learn more about our universe," he adds in the statement. Riess and his team used JWST

data to measure the distances from Earth to specific kinds of galaxies with pulsating stars called Cepheid variables, which are 'the gold standard for measuring cosmic distances,' as per the statement. With these measurements, they calculated the universe's rate of expansion. The JWST results were consistent with the Hubble ones, which effectively rules out the possibility of the Hubble tension, resulting from

ignorance about two elements, dark matter and dark energy and these make up 96 per cent of the universe. So, this is no small matter. Dark matter, hypothesized to make up 27 per cent of the universe, is some unknown material that affects the rest of the cosmos with its gravity. Dark energy, on the other hand, is thought to make up some 68 per cent of the universe, and scientists speculate that it might be responsible for the universe's expansion. And now, the new findings suggest that it perhaps accounts for the unexplained acceleration of that expansion, too.

human or instrument error. But the

curious thing was the rate they calcu-

lated. The universe's expansion rate

is expressed in kilometers per second

per megaparsec. (A megaparsec equals 3.26 million light-years.)

Widely accepted cosmology models have used light from the early uni-

verse to put the Hubble constant of

universe expansion at about 67 to 68

km/s/Mpc. The now-confirmed tele-

scope observations, however, yield an

average of 73 km/s/Mpc. "Yes, it

appears that there is something miss

ing in our understanding of the uni-

verse," says Riess. "Our understand-

ing of the universe contains a lot of

"The more work we do, the more it is apparent that the cause is something much more interesting than a telescope flaw," says Riess, "The next steps are many. More data on many fronts and new ideas are needed.' "One possible explanation for the Hubble tension would be if there was something missing in our under standing of the early universe, such as a new component of matter, early dark energy, that gave the universe an unexpected kick after the Big Bang," Marc Kamionkowski, a Cosmologist at Johns Hopkins, who helped calculate the Hubble constant but was not involved in the new study, says in the statement. "And there are other ideas, like funny dark matter properties, exotic particles, changing electron mass or primordial magnetic fields, that may do the trick. Theorists have license to get

THE WALL



BABY BLUES









