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INDIA NEWSLETTER

(BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON INDIA AND
INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)

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PM Addresses the Inaugural Session of India Global Week

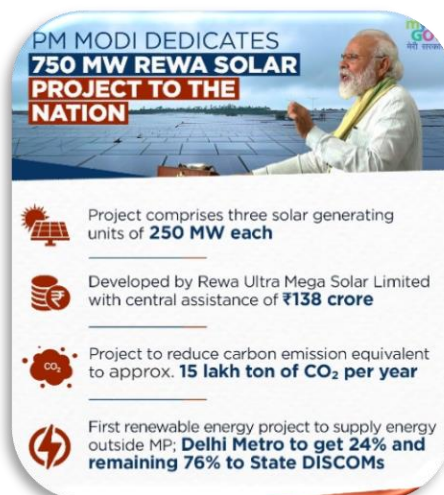
On 9 July, Prime Minister Modi addressed the inaugural session of India Global Week via videoconference. Referring to the current times of crisis, the Prime Minister said India would play a leading role in the global revival. He said that this is closely linked with two factors. First is Indian talent and second is India's ability to reform and rejuvenate. He elaborated that world over, the contribution of India's talent-force is highly recognized, especially the contribution of the Indian tech industry and tech professionals. He described India as a power-house of talent that is eager to contribute. He added that Indians are natural reformers and history has shown that India has overcome every challenge, be it social or economic.



The theme of the 3-day conference was 'Be The Revival: India and a Better New World'. He said that when India talks of revival it is: Revival with care, Revival with compassion, Revival which is sustainable - both for the environment and the economy.

PM said that this is an India that is reforming, performing and transforming. This is an India that offers new economic opportunities. This is an India that is adopting a human-centric and inclusive approach to development. India awaits you all.

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PM Dedicates Asia's Largest Solar Power Project to The Nation

Prime Minister Modi dedicated Asia's Largest Solar Power Project to the Nation on 11 July 2020. At 750 MW, the Rewa Ultra Solar Power Project in Madhya Pradesh will be a major medium for providing the energy needs of an aspirational India in the 21st century. PM described Solar Energy as one which is 'Sure, Pure & Secure'. Sure because of the continuous supply of Energy from the Sun, Pure as it is environment friendly and Secure because it is a secure source for our energy needs. PM termed such Solar Energy projects are a true representation of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India).

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PM visits Nimu in Ladakh to Interact with Indian Troops



Prime Minister Modi travelled to Nimu in Ladakh to interact with Indian troops on 3 July 2020. Nimu is surrounded by the Zaskar range and is on the banks of river Indus. PM met the top leadership of the Indian Army and later interacted with personnel of the Army, Air Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

PM paid rich tributes to the valour of Indian Armed Forces, stating that their courage and devotion to Mother India is unparalleled. He stated that Indians can go about their lives peacefully because they know that our Armed Forces are standing firm, protecting the nation. He said that due to the exemplary bravery of the Armed Forces in the recent weeks, the world has taken note of India's strength.

PM remembered all the proud sons of Mother India who made the supreme sacrifice at the Galwan Valley. He said that those who were martyred belong to all parts of India and epitomize our land's ethos of bravery. He also paid homage to Mother India and to the Mothers of all those brave soldiers and security forces of India who serve India with unparalleled diligence.

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PM Addresses on The Occasion of Dharma Chakra Day

Prime Minister Modi delivered a video address on 4th July on the occasion of inauguration of Dharma Chakra Day. The International Buddhist Confederation, under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, celebrated Asadha Poonnima on July 4, 2020, as Dharma Chakra Day. This day commemorates Gautam Buddha's First Sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the Deer Park, Rsiapatana in the present day Sarnath near Varanasi, UP. The day is also celebrated by Buddhists all over the world as the day of Dharma Chakra Parvattana or "Turning of the Wheel of Dharma".



PM Modi talked about the teaching of Lord Buddha and about the eight-fold path which shows the way towards the well-being of many societies and nations. He noted that Buddhism teaches respect for people, women, poor, for peace and non-violence and these teachings are the means to a sustainable planet. He said that the world today is fighting extraordinary challenges, lasting solutions to which can come from the ideals of Lord Buddha. He spoke about the need to connect more people with Buddhist heritage sites and enhance connectivity to these sites. He also mentioned about the recent Cabinet decision to declare Kushinagar Airport in UP as an International Airport, which would facilitate the travel of pilgrims and tourists, while also giving a boost to the economy in the region.

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Indigenous Indian COVID19 Vaccines in Global Race to End The Pandemic



Indigenous Indian COVID 19 vaccines are in the global race to end the coronavirus pandemic. Ministry of Science and Technology said that a silver lining has appeared with the announcement of COVAXIN by Bharat Biotech and ZyCov-D Vaccine by Zydus Cadila. Drug Controller General of India CDSCO, has given the nod for the conduct of the human trial for the vaccines. In the past years, India has emerged as one of the significant vaccine manufacturing hubs. Indian manufacturers account for 60 percent of vaccine supplies made to UNICEF. Across the world, more than 140 candidate vaccines are under various stages of development. Indian institutions have also engaged in Research and Development for the development of vaccines in India. With the primary scientific inputs coming from institutions like Pune based ICMR institution National Institute of Virology and Hyderabad based CSIR institution Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, six Indian companies are working on a vaccine for COVID-19. Along with COVAXIN and ZyCov-D, 11 out of 140 vaccine candidates have entered the human trials world over.

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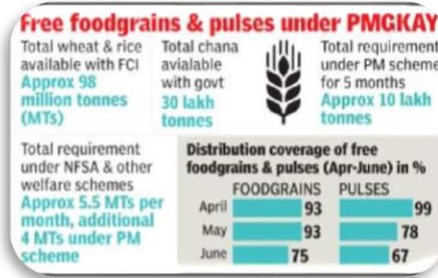
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Extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana – Allocation of Additional Food Grain for Further Five Months from July to November 2020

On 8 July, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Modi approved further extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) as part of Economic Response to COVID-19 for additional allocation of food-grains from the Central Pool for another Five months from July to November, 2020.



PM Modi said that the Indian government's decision to start the PMGKAY within days of the nationwide lockdown had ensured that the poorest of the poor were not left hungry, with 800 million people having benefited from the free distribution of grains which is twice the population of the European Union, 12 times the population of the UK, and two and half times the population of the United States.

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Google Announces Investment of US\$ 10 Billion in India



Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced a \$10 billion "Google for India Digitization Fund" to help accelerate India's digital economy. Google will invest this amount into India over next 5-7 years through mix of equity investments, partnerships & operational infrastructure in ecosystem investments. Mr. Pichai said that innovations started in India can help Global Community. The move reflects company's confidence in future of India and its digital economy, he noted. He thanked Prime Minister Modi for the Digital India vision on Monday and said "Thanks to PM Modi's vision for Digital India, the country has made a huge progress in getting a billion Indians online. Low-cost smartphones combines with affordable data, the world-class telecom structure has paved the way for new opportunities".



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Bilateral Meeting between Indian Defence Secretary and Deputy Defence Minister of Vietnam



As part of the ongoing online defence engagements, Indian Defence Secretary, Dr Ajay Kumar held a phone talk with his Vietnamese counterpart Sr. Lt Gen Nguyen Chi Vinh, Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam on 6 July 2020. The talks were primarily centered on COVID-19 and conduct of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in these times of uncertainty. During the talks, the Indian Defence Secretary congratulated Vietnam for successfully controlling the COVID-19. Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam briefed about the COVID-19 situation in Vietnam and affirmed that Vietnam is determined not to let the pandemic affect the activities of the country, including bilateral defence cooperation. He also extended an invitation to the Indian Defence Minister to visit Vietnam to attend the ADMM+ to be held by the end of the year and sought continued support and assistance from the Indian side in Vietnam's capacity building and multilateral activities.



अतुल्य! भारत
Incredible! India



Ambassador Meets Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism



Ambassador met the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien on 3 July 2020. They recalled the deep civilizational and cultural connection between India and Vietnam and underlined the importance of cultural and people-to-people exchanges in taking forward the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries. They also discussed future collaboration in areas such as promotion of Yoga, heritage conservation, tourism and film. Ambassador thanked Minister Thien for the support given by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam for Embassy's cultural outreach and the functioning of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Hanoi.

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Ambassador Meets Party Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City



Ambassador met the Party Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City and Member of the Politburo of Communist Party of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhanh on 29 June at HCM City.

They discussed prospects for closer cooperation in a number of areas, including trade and investment, high-technology, tourism promotion and people-to-people ties. Party Secretary Nhan warmly recalled his past visits to India and noted the high importance he attached to promoting relations with India.

Ambassador thanked the Party Secretary for his strong support to India-Vietnam relations and for all the facilitations extended to the Consulate General of India in HCM City.

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Ambassador Visits Phu Yen Province



As part of Embassy's outreach to Provinces of Vietnam, Ambassador visited the south central Province of Phu Yen and met the Provincial Party Secretary, H.E. Mr. Huynh Tan Viet on 27 June. They discussed wide-ranging opportunities for economic and development partnerships as well as cultural contacts between India and Phu Yen.

Party Secretary Viet fondly recalled his visit to India in October 2019 and appreciated the role played by Indian investments in Phu Yen's socio-economic development. During the visit, Ambassador also joined the provincial leaders of Phu Yen at a ceremony to mark the International Day of Yoga and inaugurated an overpass bridge built with Government of India's assistance under the Quick Impact Project programme.

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Ambassador Addresses Scholars at HCM National Academy of Politics on India's Policy Measures to Deal With COVID-19

Ambassador was invited by the Centre of Indian Studies at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMNAP) on 2 July 2020 to speak on "Policy Measures taken by Government of India to deal with #COVID19: Perspectives for Vietnam-India Partnership". More than seventy-five scholars and experts from the Academy and the larger thinkthank community joined in a nearly three-hour long interaction.

INDIA'S
POLICY
MEASURES TO
DEAL WITH
COVID-19

PERSPECTIVES FOR
VIETNAM - INDIA
PARTNERSHIP



Ambassador highlighted the recent steps taken by Government of India to turn the crisis of COVID-19 into opportunity for Indian economy. He underlined Prime Minister Modi's resolve to build a Self-reliant India rooted in human-centric globalization and built upon five pillars of Economy, Infrastructure, Technology, Demography and Demand. Ambassador introduced recent transformative measures taken by Government of India to reboot the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), enhance opportunities for foreign traders and investors and fundamentally reform the agricultural sector. He presented the opportunities that these measures created for India-Vietnam partnership.

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India and Vietnam Share Experience in COVID-19 Prevention



The Military Medical Departments of India and Vietnam held an online conference on COVID-19 prevention and control on 01 July 2020. The meeting was co-chaired by Maj. Gen. Rajshree Ramasethu, Senior Consultant Medicine, India's Directorate General of Armed Force Medical Services and Maj. Gen. Xuan Kien, Director of Vietnam Military Medical Department. The online conference was attended by specialist doctors from the two sides, as they updated each other on the COVID-19 situation in their respective countries and exchanged response, diagnosis, preventive and treatment measures.

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Ambassador Felicitates Winner of ICCR International Art Competition



Vietnamese Artiste Nguyen Tuan Anh was felicitated by the Ambassador on 10 July at Ho Chi Minh City for winning the International Art Competition "Art in the Time of CORONA: United against Corona-Express through Art" organized by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). The ICCR, with its focus on building cultural links with countries around the world and connecting people through Cultural and Educational exchanges, had earlier invited Indians and citizens of the world to express their emotions through this global contest encouraging submissions of artistic expressions to present their emotions, feelings, ideas and innovative thoughts on the COVID-19, social distancing, quarantine and the fight against the virus. Artiste Nguyen Tuan Anh was declared with the best entry in the category "cartoons and illustrations".

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Sarnath- Mahatama Buddha's First Sermon



Sarnath, 10 km from Varanasi, is one of the most revered Buddhist pilgrimage centers. After attaining the Enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, it was here that Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, sanctified as Maha Dharm Chakra Pravartan. The great Dhamekh Stupa and several other structures stand testimony to the importance the place enjoyed at that time. The Chaukhandi Stupa is the place where, during his first visit to Sarnath, Lord Buddha met his first five disciples. The area is a treasure trove of archaeological findings such as Dharmrajika Stupa and Mulgandhkuti Vihar. The smooth glistening pillar established by Emperor Ashoka in 273-232 B.C. marks the foundation of the Buddhist Sangha, and the Lion Capital atop this pillar is now India's National Emblem. Its reputation as a center of Buddhist learning spreads far and wide and is a revered location and a great attraction for tourists from across the world.

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Retail & e-Commerce: India - The Top Retail Destination



The Retail market in India has undergone a major transformation and has witnessed tremendous growth in the last 10 years. The Overall Retail market is set to cross the \$1.75 tn mark by 2026 from \$795 bn in 2017. India's e-commerce market is also set to grow at a CAGR of 30% for gross merchandise value to be worth \$200 bn by 2026. India ranks among the best countries to invest in Retail space. Factors that make India so attractive include the second largest population in the world, a middle class of 600 mn people, increasing, urbanization, rising household incomes, connected rural consumers and increasing consumer spending. Recent policy changes allow 100% FDI under the automatic route for single-brand retail trading.

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