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HANOI**

# INDIA NEWSLETTER

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INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)

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## INDEX

- India to Become Global Hub for Artificial Intelligence: PM
- Prime Minister Dedicates the Atal Tunnel to the Nation
- India Has the Most Favourable Investment Climate Says PM
- More Youngsters Should Develop Interest in Science: PM Modi
- Jan Andolan' Campaign for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour
- The Diversity in Our Textiles Shows the Richness of Our Culture: PM Modi
- PM Launches Physical Distribution of Property Cards Under the SVAMITVA Scheme
- ICWA-VIISAS International Webinar: New Horizons in Vietnam - India Relations
- Proud Moment for India: Eight Beaches Recommended by Government Gets International Blue Flag Certification

### India to Become Global Hub for Artificial Intelligence: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated RAISE 2020, a Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) on 5th October. Speaking on the occasion, PM mentioned that India has led the world in knowledge & learning and will continue to digitally excel and delight the world. PM stressed how the world's largest unique identity system

- Aadhaar along with the world's most innovative digital payments system - UPI has enabled providing access to digital services, including financial services, like Direct Cash Transfers to the poor and marginalised. During the pandemic, it has enabled in reaching out to people with help, at the earliest and in the most efficient manner. PM Modi wished India to become a global hub for Artificial Intelligence and hoped many more Indians would start working on this in the times to come.

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### Prime Minister Dedicates the Atal Tunnel to the Nation



On 5th October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Atal Tunnel, world's longest highway tunnel (9.02km long). The tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. In his address, the Prime Minister termed the day as historic as it not only fructifies the vision of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee but also the decades old wish and dream of crores of people from the region. He added that now parts of Himachal Pradesh and Leh-Ladakh will always be connected with the rest of the country and would witness speedier economic progress. The Prime Minister said the Atal Tunnel is a shining example of the country's resolve to become AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliant).

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### India Has the Most Favourable Investment Climate, Says PM



On 8th October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at Invest India Conference in Canada through video conference. PM said India is undisputedly the only country shining in all their investment parameters like having political stability, investment and business friendly policies, transparency in governance, skilled talent pool and a large market. He said there is an opportunity for everyone including Institutional Investors, manufacturers, supporters of innovation ecosystems and infrastructure companies. He listed various initiatives taken by the Government to overcome the disruption owing to the pandemic and stressed that this shows the strength of governance structures and systems that have been built over the last few years.

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## INDEX (Continued)

- Commemoration of 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- Interactive Meeting Between India and Vietnam in the Fields of ICT and Smart Cities
- Ambassador's Interview by VITV, Vietnam
- Ambassador Meets Vice Chairman of External Relations Commission
- Ambassador Visits Academy of Politics, Ho Chi Minh City
- Showcasing India-Vietnam Development Cooperation
- Inauguration of Irrigation Project in Nghia Lo Town of Yen Bai Province
- Rishikesh: Yoga Capital of the World
- Food Processing - 'A Sunrise Sector'

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### More Youngsters Should Develop Interest in Science: PM Modi



"The need of the hour is to ensure more youngsters develop interest in Science. For that we must get well-versed with science of history and history of science", said Prime Minister Modi while inaugurating the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit, a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians. PM Modi further added that India's clarion call of an Atmanirbhar Bharat, includes a vision of global welfare. Recently India introduced pioneering space reforms which provide opportunities for both industry & academia.

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### Jan Andolan' Campaign for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour

On 8th October in a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a public movement and appealed everyone to unite in the fight against corona. Reiterating the key message of "wear a mask, wash hands, follow social distancing and practice do gaj ki doori, PM said together we will succeed and win against the Covid-19. The campaign is being launched with the aim to encourage People's Participation. Under the campaign, a COVID-19 Pledge will be taken by all. It is hoped that the campaign will contribute to safer and more responsible public behavior at the levels of individual, family and community, so that we are able to wage a better fight against the widening onslaught of the pandemic.



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### The Diversity in Our Textiles Shows the Richness of Our Culture: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an international webinar on textile traditions organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on 3rd October.

Speaking on the occasion, PM lauded ICCR and Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design for their efforts in bringing people from different countries to participate in the webinar on the theme "Weaving Relations: Textile Traditions." He said in the textile sector one can see our history, diversity and immense opportunity. From Vietnam also, Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hang and Mr. Ta Van Canh from Hanoi Industrial Textile Garment University gave their presentations on the State of Textile Industry in Vietnam and the Solutions for Its Promotion and Vietnamese Ethnic Traditional Costumes.



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## PM Launches Physical Distribution of Property Cards Under the SVAMITVA Scheme

In a landmark event, PM Narendra Modi launched physical distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme, a huge step towards digitalising grassroots, transforming rural India. PM Modi wished the beneficiaries of 'SVAMITVA Scheme' who have got property cards of their houses and said now the beneficiaries will have a right, a legal document of owning their houses. The scheme is going to bring historical changes to the villages in the country. He added the country has taken another major step towards an AtmaNirbhar Bharat, as the scheme helps in making rural India self-reliant. He said 'SVAMITVA Scheme' will help in strengthening the Panchayati Raj system for which efforts are underway for the past 6 years.

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## ICWA-VIISAS International Webinar: New Horizons in Vietnam - India Relations

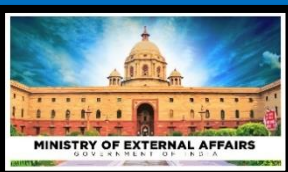


Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan delivered a keynote address at a virtual conference organised on 7 October 2020 jointly by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Vietnam Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) at the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) on the topic "New Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations".

MOS underlined the rich spectrum of engagement between India and Vietnam – ranging from their civilizational dimensions to today's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across multiple sectors such as political ties, trade and economic relations, defence and security cooperation, development and S&T partnership, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges – that makes this partnership truly special.

The webinar explored avenues to further enrich India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. From the Vietnamese side, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Nguyen Minh Vu addressed the conference. A large number of scholars, experts and observers from both sides also participated.

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## Proud Moment for India: Eight Beaches Recommended by Government Gets International Blue Flag Certification



It is a proud moment for India as 8 beaches of India, spread across five states and two union territories, have been awarded the “BLUE FLAG” by an International Jury comprising of eminent members viz UNEP, UNWTO, FEE, IUCN. The beaches that have been awarded the ‘BLUE FLAG’ are Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (AP), Golden (Puri-Odisha) and Radhanagar (A&N Islands). “India is also the first country in “Asia-Pacific” region which has achieved this feat in just about 2 years’ time”, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said.

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## Commemoration of 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi’s 151st Birth Anniversary was celebrated by the Embassy of India, Hanoi, in its premises on October 2, 2020. The event concluded a year-long celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. H. E. Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, Former Foreign Minister of Vietnam attended the event as the Chief Guest, along with other senior dignitaries, including Mme Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga, President of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization (VUFO) and Most Venerable Thich Thanh Nhiu of Vietnam Buddhist Sangha. Ambassador Pranay Verma highlighted the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi’s messages in contemporary times.



Former Foreign Minister H.E. Nien, in his [remarks](#) paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and recalled deep imprints of Mahatma Gandhi’s ideals on the leaders and people of Vietnam.

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## Interactive Meeting Between India and Vietnam in the Fields of ICT and Smart Cities



To promote cooperation in the field of ICT, start-up and smart cities between India and Vietnam, the Embassy of India in coordination with Vietnam’s Association of Foreign Invested Enterprises (VAFIE) organized an Interactive Meeting on 8 October 2020. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Pranay Verma highlighted the enhanced role of digital technology in all aspects of society and economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and urged businesses on both sides to explore significant opportunities existing in IT and IT-enabled services.

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## Ambassador's Interview by VITV, Vietnam

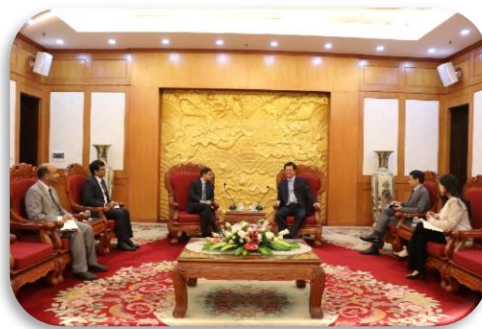
Vietnam's VITV invited Ambassador Pranay Verma to its studio on 1st October 2020 for an interview on India's policy response to COVID-19. Ambassador spoke about a number of transformative steps and progressive legislations undertaken by India in recent months and introduced Prime Minister Modi's vision of human-centric globalization and of Atmanirbhar Bharat for a self-sustaining and resilient India leading the global revival and connecting with global value chains. Ambassador also highlighted India's commitment, as the 'Pharmacy of the World', towards development and manufacturing of vaccine for COVID-19, as he noted Prime Minister's address to the UN General Assembly on 26 September assuring that India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis.



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## Ambassador Meets Vice Chairman of External Relations Commission



Ambassador Pranay Verma met the Vice Chairman of the External Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Truong Quang Hoai Nam on 30 September 2020 and exchanged views on recent developments in India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Ambassador conveyed his deep appreciation for the important role played by the Party's External Affairs Commission in promoting bilateral ties between India and Vietnam.

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## Ambassador Visits Academy of Politics, Ho Chi Minh City

Ambassador Pranay Verma delivered an address on India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership at the Academy of Politics at Ho Chi Minh City on 21 September 2020. He also briefed the scholars about the recent transformative steps being taken by Government of India on several fronts and the opportunities they created for advancing India's engagement with Vietnam. The Academy of Politics is the key institution for training of senior Party and Provincial officials in the southern regions of Vietnam.



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## Showcasing India-Vietnam Development Cooperation

Development cooperation is an important pillar of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. During his recent visit to four southern provinces on 22-23 September 2020, Ambassador Pranay Verma visited some iconic projects of India's long-standing development partnership with Vietnam. These included the Cuu Long Delta Rice Research Institute in Can Tho, Southern Fruit Research Institute (SOFRI) in Tien Giang, Can Tho Oncology Hospital where India's indigenous radiotherapy machine Bhabhatron-II was installed.



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### Inauguration of Irrigation Project in Nghia Lo Town of Yen Bai Province



Marking another concrete outcome in India's long-standing development partnership with Vietnam, an irrigation project was inaugurated in Nghia Lo town of Yen Bai province in northern Vietnam on 10.10.2020. The project, involving a 2.1 km long in-field canal, was implemented under Government of India's Quick Impact Project programme and completed in a short span of six months with an Indian grant assistance of US\$ 50,000. It is providing irrigation for 70 hectares of farmland and bringing direct benefits to over 250 households in the locality.

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### Rishikesh: Yoga Capital of the World

Nestled in the Himalayan foothills, Rishikesh is one of the most sacred cities in northern India. Located in the state of Uttarakhand, Rishikesh is the hub of sages, yoga practitioners and pilgrims, who through the ghats (stepped banks of a river) and temples. Rishikesh offers a resplendent view of the grand aarti that lights up the banks in the evenings with new rays of hope. It is the starting point for the Hindu Char Dham pilgrimage, including Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, to seek spiritual salvation. Rishikesh is also called the 'Yoga capital of the world'. For the adventurous, Rishikesh is the place for starting their trekking expeditions and excursions towards the Himalayan peaks.



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### Food Processing - 'A Sunrise Sector'



India is the world's largest milk producing nation. India's food ecosystem offers huge opportunities for investments with stimulating growth in the food retail sector, favourable economic policies and attractive fiscal incentives. The Food & Grocery market in India is the sixth largest in the world. Food & Grocery retail market in India further constitutes almost 65% of the total retail market in India. 100% FDI is permitted under the automatic route in Food processing industries. 100% FDI is allowed through government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India.

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