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INDIA NEWSLETTER

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INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS)

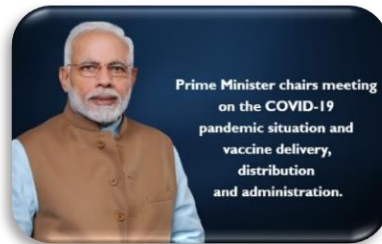
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INDEX

- **PM Calls for Ensuring Election-Like Arrangement for COVID19 Vaccine Delivery**
- **PM Modi's Special Address to the Nation**
- **The Future will be Shaped by Societies That Invest in Science and Innovation: PM Modi**
- **India's Energy Sector to Be Growth Centric, Industry Friendly and Environment Conscious, Says PM**
- **Reforms in India Show India's Commitment Towards Global Food Security, Says PM**
- **Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling is the biggest need of the hour: PM**
- **Corruption Across Generations a Major Hurdle in the Progress of the Country: PM**
- **India is Preferred Destination for Foreign Direct Investment**
- **India Re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance for Two More Years**

PM Calls for Ensuring Election-Like Arrangement for COVID19 Vaccine Delivery



On 17 October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed the Covid-19 pandemic situation in the country and the preparedness of vaccine delivery, distribution, and administration. Three vaccines are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which 2 are in Phase II and one is in Phase-III. In an effort to help the global community, the Prime Minister further directed that we should not limit our efforts to our immediate neighbourhood but also reach out to the entire world in providing vaccines,

medicines and IT platforms for vaccine delivery system. PM further directed that keeping in view the geographical span and diversity of the country, the access to the vaccine should be ensured speedily. He insisted on continued social distancing, Covid appropriate behaviour such as wearing the mask, regularly washing hands and sanitation etc. especially in the wake of upcoming festival season.

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PM Modi's Special Address to the Nation

In a televised address to the nation, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a fervent appeal to all the citizens to not let their guard down and become complacent, in the country's ongoing fight against the COVID Pandemic. PM said despite the lockdown having been lifted it does not mean that the Corona Virus is wiped out. He appreciated the improvement in the situation all over the country and that economic activity is returning to normal and that people started moving out of their houses to fulfill the responsibilities. He said India is in a better situation due to the efforts of every Indian in the last 7-8 months and one should not let it deteriorate. PM noted that the recovery rate in the country has improved and the fatality rate is low. He urged citizens to be vigilant while fulfilling their responsibilities.



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The Future will be Shaped by Societies That Invest in Science and Innovation: PM Modi



While delivering keynote address at Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2020, Prime Minister Modi said the future will be shaped by societies that invest in science and innovation. He said the benefits of science and innovation can be reaped at the right time by investing in it well in advance, instead of having a short sighted approach. He added science will never prosper in silos and the Grand Challenges Programme has understood this ethos well. He commended the scale of this programme wherein several nations were engaged globally and addressed diverse issues such as Antimicrobial Resistance, Maternal and Child Health, Agriculture, Nutrition, WaSH - (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), and many others. PM urged to keep using the collaborative spirit for individual empowerment and collective well-being.

[READ MORE](#)

INDEX (Continued)

- Manufacturing Sector Growth Pushes India among Top 3 Emerging Economies
- Release of Commemorative Postage Stamp on 75th Anniversary of United Nations
- Capital Goods: Building India of Tomorrow
- Jantar Mantar: Expression of Astronomical Skills and Cosmological Concepts
- India, Vietnam Need to Intensify Trade Relations to Achieve Potential
- Ambassador Pays Tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at the Kim Lien Monument
- Embassy of India Reaches Out to Yen Bai Province
- Ambassador's Interaction with Defence Thinktank of Vietnam
- Seminar on Journalism and Communication in COVID-19: Views from Vietnam and India
- Ambassador Meets Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam

India's Energy Sector to Be Growth Centric, Industry Friendly and Environment Conscious, Says PM



On 26 October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with CEOs of leading oil & gas companies in the annual event organized by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. During the interaction, PM highlighted that energy is at the centre of human development, which is why conversations around the energy sector are important. He said that at the core of the government's policy is providing equitable access of clean, affordable and sustainable energy to all Indians, for which the country has adopted an integrated approach. He underlined that with the government taking a series of policy steps to make India an attractive investment destination, there are tremendous opportunities in the energy sector in India. India now allows 100% FDI in exploration and production projects and has permitted 49% FDI in public sector refining under the automatic route. PM also added as part of India's Neighbourhood First Policy, development of energy corridors with our neighbouring countries is prioritized for mutual benefit.

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Reforms in India Show India's Commitment Towards Global Food Security, Says PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi released commemorative coins of Rs 75 denomination to mark the 75th Anniversary of FAO on 16 October through video conferencing. He dedicated to the nation, 17 recently developed biofortified varieties of crops. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister greeted the people across the world who are constantly working to remove malnutrition. He said, our Kisan Saathi - our Annadata; Food grain Producers, our Agricultural Scientist, our Anganwadi ASHA, Health workers, are the basis of the movement against malnutrition. While they have filled the granary of India with their hard work, they are also helping the government in reaching the poorest of the poor. He added, due to all these efforts, India is fighting a strong fight against malnutrition even in this crisis of Corona. PM said over the years, FAO helped to increase agricultural production and eradicate hunger all over the world, including India and has played a huge role in increasing nutrition and its service is respected by more than 130 crore Indians.

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Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling is the Biggest Need of the Hour: PM

Addressing the Centenary Convocation 2020 of the University of Mysore on 19 October through video conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said continuous efforts are being made so that India's education system caters to the needs of the 21st century wherein infrastructure creation and structural reforms were given special focus. Continuous qualitative and quantitative efforts are being made to turn India into a global hub for higher education, PM said. Talking about the New Education Policy (NEP), he said it would give new impetus by bringing about fundamental changes in the entire education sector. The focus of the NEP 2020 is multidimensional to make our youth competitive through a flexible and adaptable education system. PM Modi urged the students to try to achieve excellence on the basis of their individual strengths.



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INDEX (Continued)

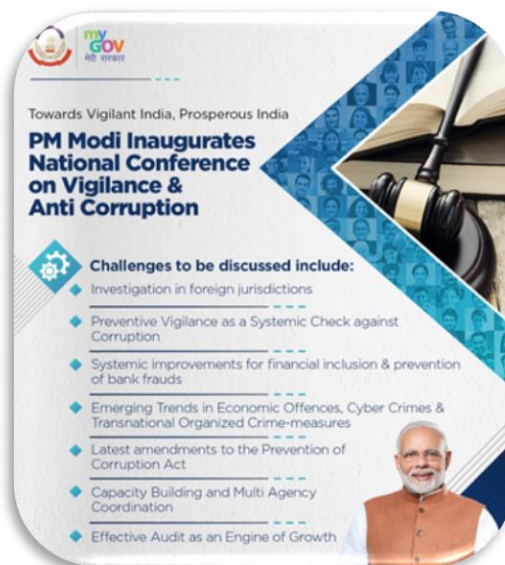
- Vande Bharat Mission

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Corruption Across Generations a Major Hurdle in the Progress of the Country: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption on the theme सतर्क भारत, समृद्ध भारत (Vigilant India, Prosperous India) today through video conferencing.



The event was organized by the Central Bureau of Investigation focusing on Vigilance issues aimed at raising awareness and reaffirming India's commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation. PM stressed the necessity for the administrative systems to be transparent, responsible, accountable, answerable to the public. He added that the biggest enemy against this is any form of corruption. He said one hand corruption hurts the development of the country and on the other it destroys the social balance as well as the trust that people should have in the system. And therefore, he said tackling corruption is not just the responsibility of any single agency or institution but that it is a collective responsibility. He said corruption cannot be dealt with a stand-alone approach.

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India is Preferred Destination for Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a major driver of economic growth and an important source of non-debt finance for the economic development of India. It has been the endeavor of the Government to put in place an enabling and investor friendly FDI policy. Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country. During April-August 2020, despite COVID-19, FDI inflow got a growth of 13%, Highest ever for first 5 months of a Financial Year.



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India Re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance for Two More Years



In what is an acknowledgement of the country's leadership of the global movement, India has been re-elected as president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for two more years. France was re-elected as Co-President at the virtual meeting of the third assembly of the ISA held on 14 October. Speaking in the plenary, the President of the ISA assembly, India's Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister, Mr R.K. Singh, appreciated the Alliance Members coming together to work for combating climate change. The meeting approved the initiatives to institutionalize ISA's engagement with the private and public corporate sector through the Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA). The International Solar Alliance is an initiative that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then French President Francois Hollande on November 30, 2015 on the side-lines of the COP-21 summit in Paris, France.

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Manufacturing Sector Growth Pushes India among Top 3 Emerging Economies

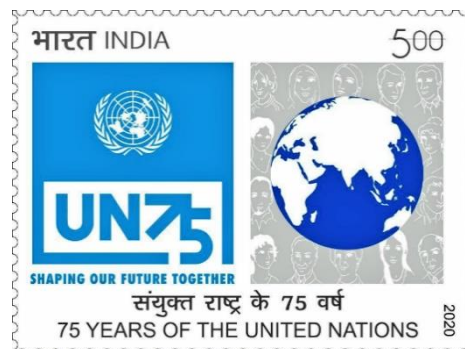
Despite a devastating impact of the Covid-19 on the world economy, India has seen a steady recovery in the manufacturing sector, helping the country climb two notches to the third position among key emerging markets in September. In September, India's merchandise exports rose 6% on-year to \$27.6 billion. Among the other emerging markets that have reported their export data for September, only China (10% growth) fared better than India. The growth in manufacturing could also be attributed to the new rulebook of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. India has made a point to rely on its manufacturing capabilities, for which the government of India has relaxed the rules to allow ease of manufacturing in the country. As per reports, only China and Brazil rank better than India.



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Release of Commemorative Postage Stamp on 75th Anniversary of United Nations

Department of Posts (DOP), Ministry of Communications released a commemorative postage stamp on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Organisations on 23rd October 2020.



In his remarks at the release of the commemorative postage stamp, Dr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) as Chief Guest, welcomed the timely initiative of Department of Posts to propose the UN@75 Commemorative Postage Stamp on the eve of the founding of the United Nations. He highlighted that as a founding member of the United Nations, India was deeply invested in UN's success and had been at the forefront of UN Peacekeeping Operations.

It may be noted that Department of Posts has previously released similar such commemorative postage stamps on UN's 9th, 40th and 50th Anniversaries in 1954, 1985 and 1995 respectively.

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Capital Goods: Building India of Tomorrow

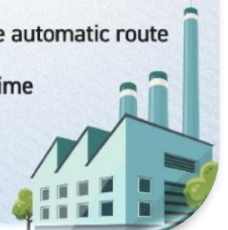
India's Capital Goods manufacturing industry serves as a strong base for its engagement across sectors such as Engineering, Construction, Infrastructure and Consumer goods, amongst others. Indian Electrical equipment is the largest sub-sector followed by Plant equipment & Earth moving/ mining machinery. Capital Goods industry in India provides approximately 1.4 mn direct and 7 mn indirect jobs. 100% FDI is allowed under the automatic route.

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Capital Goods Sector Driving New India's Industrial Growth

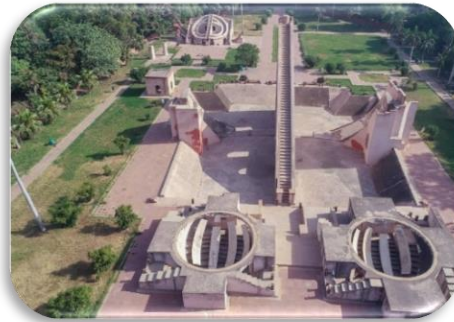
- No industrial licence required
- Land available in well-located industrial parks
- Formation of a company can be done online
- FDI allowed under the automatic route
- Liberal work visa regime
- No import licence required





Jantar Mantar: Expression of Astronomical Skills and Cosmological Concepts

Built in 1724 by Maharaja Jai Singh II of Jaipur, Jantar Mantar is one of the five astronomical observatories built by the king in Northern India. Its striking combinations of geometric forms have caught the attention of architects, artists and art historians from around the world. It was designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye. It is a part of the tradition of the Ptolemaic positional astronomy, which was common in a lot of civilisations. Jantar Mantar comprises 13 astronomy instruments that were used to predict the movements and timings of the planets, the sun and the moon. It is an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period.



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India, Vietnam Need to Intensify Trade Relations to Achieve Potential



Addressing a webinar on India-Vietnam Business Forum organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 20 October, Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs said, "India is the 7th largest trading partner of Vietnam and the trade relationship between both sides has grown from a meager bilateral figure of US\$ 200 million in the year 2000 to US\$ 12.34 billion in FY 2019-20 ." At the same time, she also pointed to the need to tap more opportunities and said "Our bilateral trade turnover is still not commensurate with the levels of our economic development and therefore, we need to do more to broaden and intensify our trade relations to achieve its full potential". Further, Ambassador Pranay Verma noted that for robust economic engagement between the countries, it is important to identify sectors and engage in B-2-B tie-ups.

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Ambassador Pays Tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at the Kim Lien Monument

During his working visit to Nghe An Province on 20 October 2020, Ambassador Pranay Verma and his wife visited the Kim Lien Special National Monument at Nam Dan District to pay tribute to President Ho Chi Minh. Accompanying them were Mr. Nguyen The Ky, Member of the Party Central Committee and General Director of Voice of Vietnam, and Mr. Bui Dinh Long, Vice Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee of Nghe An.



Ambassador also met with the Secretary of Nghe An Provincial Party Committee, Mr. Thai Thanh Quy and other senior leaders of the province. Party Secretary Quy thanked Government of India for the grant assistance under the Quick Impact Project (QIP) programme for building classrooms at Ma Thanh Commune Kindergarten in Yen Thanh district. He hoped that in the coming years, Government of India will continue supporting other development projects in Nghe An province. Ambassador expressed his pleasure on getting the opportunity to visit Nghe An, which is President Ho Chi Minh's home province, and lauded the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries. Ambassador expressed confidence that India's cooperation with provinces of Vietnam will give a new boost to India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

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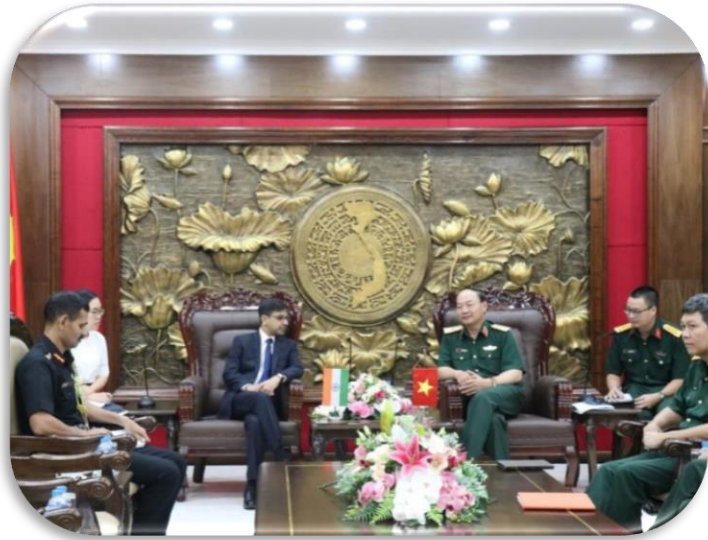
Embassy of India Reaches Out to Yen Bai Province



As part of Embassy’s provincial outreach, Ambassador Pranay Verma visited Yen Bai in northern Vietnam on 9-10 October 2020 and met with the Chairman of the Provincial People’s Committee, H.E. Mr. Trần Huy Tuan and other senior officials. They held detailed discussions on ways to promote greater economic, developmental, cultural, tourism and people-to-people ties between Yen Bai province and India. Yen Bai currently has seven Indian enterprises with sizable investments in mineral and manufacturing sectors. The provincial leaders of Yen Bai expressed interest in working with the Embassy to promote even closer cooperation with Indian businesses and sought India’s continued engagement in Yen Bai’s socio-economic development. India has so far completed three community infrastructure projects in Yen Bai, in the areas of connectivity, education and agriculture.

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Ambassador’s Interaction with Defence Thinktank of Vietnam



Ambassador Pranay Verma held a roundtable discussion with the top officials of Vietnam’s Institute of Defence International Relations (IDIR) led by its Director, Maj. Gen. Vu Tien Trong on 13 October 2020. They explored future avenues of India-Vietnam Defence Partnership and many other facets of their multidimensional bilateral relations. They also discussed regional and global issues of common interest. IDIR is a premier thinktank under Vietnam’s Ministry of National Defence and an important partner for strategic consultations.

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Seminar on Journalism and Communication in COVID-19: Views from Vietnam and India

Ambassador Pranay Verma participated at a seminar "Journalism and Communication in COVID-19: Views from Vietnam and India" organized by the Centre for Indian Studies at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics in Hanoi on 22 October 2020. He underlined the importance of effective public communication in shaping public responses and managing the current pandemic. Ambassador also highlighted the wide range of policy measures adopted by the Government of India to deal with the impact of the pandemic across all three major fronts - life, livelihood and economy.



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Ambassador Meets Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam

Continuing the momentum of India-Vietnam Defence Partnership.



Ambassador Pranay Verma had a productive exchange of views with the newly appointed Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam, Senior Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Chien on 28 October 2020. They reviewed recent developments and upcoming engagements under the wide spectrum of defence cooperation between the two countries. Defence exchange is a key pillar of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

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Vande Bharat Mission

Continuing to help Indian nationals stranded in Vietnam return to India with #VandeBharatMission. A special Air India flight took off from Hanoi for Delhi carrying 138 passengers on 28 October 2020.



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