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Prime Minister Addresses 17th ASEAN India Summit



On 12 November, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 17th ASEAN-India Summit at the invitation of H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam, the current Chair of ASEAN. The Summit, which saw the participation of all ten ASEAN Member States, was conducted in virtual format. Speaking at the Summit, PM reaffirmed the centrality of ASEAN in India's Act East policy and Indo Pacific vision. The 17th ASEAN-India Summit draws to a close, with PM and ASEAN leaders paving the way for India-ASEAN partnership to march on a path of deeper progress and wider connectivity, especially in a post-pandemic world. On COVID-19, PM Modi highlighted India's response and broader support to the international community and welcomed ASEAN's initiatives to fight the pandemic. Prime Minister announced a contribution of US\$ 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.

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AatmaNirbhar Bharat is Not Just a Vision but Well-Planned Economic Strategy: PM



Addressing the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable on 5th November, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said through this year, as India bravely fought the global pandemic, the world saw India's national character and India's true strengths. He said the pandemic has successfully brought out traits like a sense of responsibility, a spirit of compassion, national unity, and the spark of innovation, for which Indians are known for. He added India's quest to become AatmaNirbhar is not just a vision but a well-planned economic strategy. He stressed it is a strategy that aims to use the capabilities of India's businesses and skills of its workers to make India into a global manufacturing powerhouse.

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India is Committed to Provide Ease of Doing Business to Its Youth: PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7 November asked IIT graduates to recognize the needs of the country and connect with the changes on the ground. "The country will give you 'ease of business' you just work for 'ease of living' of the people of this country," Prime Minister Modi said, while addressing the 51st Annual Convocation Ceremony of IIT Delhi as Chief Guest via video conferencing. PM said 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign is a mission that gives opportunities to youth, technocrats and tech-enterprise leaders of the country. He said today a favorable environment has been created for implementation of the ideas and innovation of the technocrats freely and to scale them and market them easily. He said post-COVID world is going to be very different and technology will play the biggest role in it and Virtual Reality was never thought of but now Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality has become the Working Reality.

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India has Moved from Tax-Terrorism to Tax-Transparency: Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Office-cum-Residential Complex of Cuttack Bench of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal through video conference on 11 November. Speaking on the occasion, PM said this bench would now provide modern facilities not only to Odisha, but to millions of taxpayers of Eastern and North Eastern India and help in disposing off all the pending cases in this region. PM further said that the country is moving from Tax Terrorism to Tax Transparency. He added that this change has come due to the approach of Reform, Perform and Transform. He said rules and procedures are being reformed with the help of technology. "We are performing with clear intentions and at the same time transforming the mindset of the tax administration.", PM Modi said.



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Massive Encouragement for 'Other Service Provider' Industry in BPO and ITES Sectors

With an aim to qualitatively improve the Ease of Doing Business of the IT Industry particularly Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and IT Enabled Services, the Government has drastically simplified the Other Service Provider (OSP) guidelines of the Department of Telecom. The new guidelines tremendously reduce the compliance burden of the BPO industry. The new framework will provide a strong impetus to India's industry and will make India one of the most competitive IT jurisdictions in the World. The new guidelines are inspired by Prime Minister Modi's strong emphasis on Minimum Government, Maximum Governance. India's IT Industry is a source of pride for the country and the new guidelines are aimed at removing unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions to allow the industry to focus on innovative new products and solutions.

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20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State

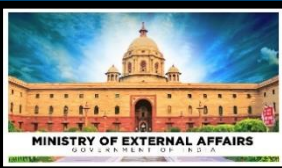


20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State was held on November 10, 2020 (in Video Conference Format). The Meeting was chaired by the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation. This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and third meeting that India participated after becoming a full member in 2017. PM underlined India's strong cultural and historical connect with the SCO region & reiterated India's firm commitment towards strengthening connectivity in the region. He also elaborated on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India) in the post-pandemic world, a force multiplier for the global economy & economic progress of SCO region.

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Vice President Calls for a 'Jan Andolan' on Water Conservation and Stresses the Importance of People's Participation for Its Success



The Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu called for a 'Jan Andolan' on water conservation and underlined the importance of people's participation to make it a success. India is a vast country, and nothing would succeed without people's participation, he added. Delivering virtually the inaugural address at the 2nd National Water Awards Ceremony, the Vice President referred to how Swachh Bharat Abhiyan became a mass movement and said he was speaking out of personal experience as he was the Urban Development Minister when it was launched. Calling for promotion of watershed development, drip and sprinkler systems for efficient use of water, he said "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle must be the watchwords if we have to handover a sustainable and liveable planet to the future generations".

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Briefing on COVID-19 Related Issues for Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations



The Ministry of External Affairs organized a briefing session on COVID-19 related issues for diplomatic missions and international organisations in New Delhi on 6 November 2020. More than 190 heads of diplomatic missions and international organisations and their representatives participated in the briefing. Participants were briefed on India's management of COVID-19, its vaccine development programme, software and related issues of vaccine delivery system and international cooperation.

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Ambassador's Visit to Vinh University in Nghe An



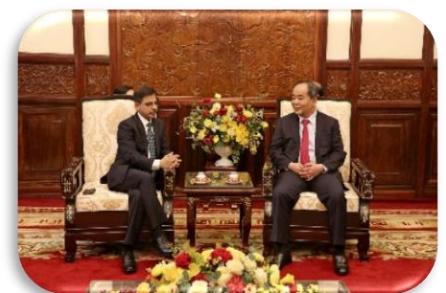
Ambassador Pranay Verma visited the Vinh University in Nghe An Province on 30 October 2020 to join an Indian Cultural Day hosted by the University in partnership with Embassy's Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and Vietnam Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies. Ambassador also held discussions with the President of the University, Prof. Nguyen Huy Bang and other senior scholars on ways to promote Indian studies at Vinh University as well as its academic tie ups with Indian universities.

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Ambassador Meets Vice Chairman in President's Office

Ambassador Pranay Verma had a productive exchange of views with the newly appointed Vice Chairman in President's Office, H.E. Mr. Le Khanh Hai on 6 November 2020.

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Ambassador Visits ARC-ICT

Indian-Vietnam Advance Resource Centre for Information and Communications Technology (ARC-ICT) is one of the modern-day icons of India-Vietnam Development Partnership. Established in 2011, the Centre has trained more than 10,000 officials and experts from Hanoi City Govt. and other provinces of Vietnam and has contributed to Vietnam's fulfilling Vietnam's digital and e-governance needs. During his visit to ARC-ICT on 10 November, Ambassador Pranay Verma met with Centre's authorities and discussed ways to make the Centre a key part of Hanoi's IT infrastructure.



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Ports & Shipping: Sailing Towards Success



India is the 16th largest maritime country in the world. India is strategically located on the world's shipping routes with a coastline of approximately 7,517 km. Maritime transport handles around 70% of India's trading in value terms. #NewIndia holds a 30% share in the global ship recycling market. 100% FDI is allowed under both government and automatic route.

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Qutub Minar: World's Tallest Brick Minaret



Qutub Minar, one of the iconic tourism sites in India, in red and buff sandstone is the world's tallest brick minaret. Standing 73-foot-tall, this five-storeyed tower, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, remains one of the most magnificent buildings of India from the medieval era. Located in Delhi's Mehrauli area, the Qutub Minar was commissioned by Qutub-ud-din Aibak, who laid the foundation of Mamluk dynasty of Delhi Sultanat (1206-1290) in India. Inspired by the victory tower at Ghazni, Afghanistan, its construction began in 1192 AD but, unfortunately, Qutub-ud-din-Aibak, did not live long enough to witness its completion. The tower was finally completed by his successors Iltutmish and Firoz Shah Tughlaq.

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