



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
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INDIA NEWSLETTER

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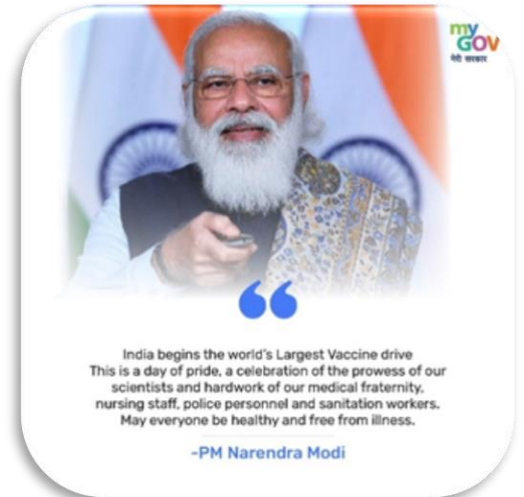
Volume 1, Issue 1

INDEX

- Prime Minister Launches World's Largest Vaccination Drive Against COVID-19 in India
- India's COVID Vaccine is a Leap of Science, Says Vice President
- PM Inaugurates Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention
- Our Diaspora is Our Face to the World and Champions India's cause on the Global Stage: President
- PM Lays Foundation Stone of Light House Projects (LHPs) across Six States
- PM Delivers Inaugural Address at National Metrology Conclave
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat is about Both Quantity and Quality: PM
- PM Calls Upon the Scientific Community to Strengthen Value Creation Cycle in Science, Technology and Industry
- PM Dedicates Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline to the Nation

Prime Minister Launches World's Largest Vaccination Drive Against COVID-19 in India

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing on 16 January. This is the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. Paying compliments to the associated scientists with the development of the vaccines, PM said, usually it takes years to prepare a vaccine but here, in such a short time, not one but two made-in-India vaccine were launched. PM put the unprecedented scale of the vaccination drive in perspective by informing that, in the first round itself, 3 crore people, which is more than population of at least 100 countries of the world, are being vaccinated. PM Modi congratulated the country for a united and brave fight against corona. He termed the Indian response to corona as one of self-confidence and self-reliance. He noted a determination of not to let the confidence weaken in every Indian.



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India's COVID Vaccine is a Leap of Science, Says Vice President



The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu hailed the emergency authorization of two COVID vaccines as India's leap of science that benefits the humanity at large. Writing on social media, Shri Naidu stressed that this is an indication of how Aatmanirbhar Bharat can benefit not only the Indians but the larger humanity. Hailing the national resolve shown by the country last year in containing the Covid-19, VP called for the same spirit in taking the vaccine to the people during this year. He said, "India is in the forefront of shielding the humanity from the deadly disease by demonstrating its ability to mass produce the much-needed vaccine and offer its own version as well. India's indigenous vaccine (Covaxin) has certain unique features based on the whole virus approach. This is a commendable achievement, and all concerned deserve kudos for foresight perseverance and fruition of spirited efforts."

[READ MORE¹](#) | [READ MORE²](#)

INDEX (Continued)

- **PM Dedicates Rewari - Madar Section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor to the Nation**
- **Prime Minister Exhorts Youth to Contribute Selflessly and Constructively in Politics**
- **UN Security Council Open Debate on International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism**
- **16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention**
- **Inauguration of Army Software Park in Nha Trang**
- **World Hindi Day**
- **Ambassador's Visit to Khanh Hoa Province- 12 January 2021**
- **Tourism & Hospitality**
- **Agra Fort: Imposing Fort on the Banks of the River Yamuna**

PM Inaugurates Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention on 9 January. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister complimented the overseas Indians for their role during the Corona pandemic in their respective countries. He said that during his discussions with the State Heads, he always felt pride in the overseas Indians when the Heads praised the Indian's in their countries for their contribution as doctors, paramedics and as general citizens. He also noted the contribution of the overseas Indian's in India's fight against COVID. He said that much of the credit of the world's trust in India, its food, fashion, family values and business values go to the overseas Indians. Conduct of the overseas Indians created an interest in Indian way and values and what started as curiosity turned into convention. PM said that as India is moving with the goal of Aatmnirbhar India, the overseas Indian have a major role to play as their use of made in India products will create more confidence in Indian products.



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Our Diaspora is Our Face to the World and Champions India's Cause on the Global Stage: President



Our Diaspora is our face to the world, and champions India's cause on the global stage. It has always come to India's aid, whether it is for advocacy regarding international issues of concern to India or contributing to the Indian economy by way of investments and remittances, said the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind while addressing the valedictory session of the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on 9 January via video conferencing. The President noted that India has one of the largest diaspora populations of nearly 30 million, residing in every corner of the world today. The President said that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is also an occasion to recall Gandhiji's ideals for individual and collective life. Gandhiji's emphasis on Indianness, nonviolence, ethics, simplicity and sustainable development remain our guiding principles, he added.

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PM Lays Foundation Stone of Light House Projects (LHPs) across Six States

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Light House projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)- at six sites across six States, on 1 January through video conference. Speaking on the occasion, PM Modi said today is the day to move forward with new energy, to prove new resolutions and today the country is getting new technology to build houses for the poor, middle class. He said the houses are called light house projects in technical language, but these 6 projects are really like lighthouses showing a new direction to the housing sector in the country. PM cited these light house projects as an example of the approach of the present Government. He said at one time housing schemes were not as much as the priority of the central government and did not go into the nuances and quality of home construction. Today, the country has chosen a different approach, adopting a different route and a better technology, to complete the projects faster.



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PM Delivers Inaugural Address at National Metrology Conclave



The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered inaugural address at the National Metrology Conclave 2021 on 4 January. He dedicated National Atomic Timescale and Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya Pranali to the Nation and laid the Foundation Stone of National Environmental Standards Laboratory through a video conference. The Conclave was organised by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, on its 75th year of inception. The theme of the conclave was 'Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation'. Speaking on the occasion, PM lauded the Indian scientists for successfully developing two Indian COVID vaccines in this new year. He said India's Covid vaccination Program is the largest in the world and is about to be started. He lauded the scientific institutions in the country including CSIR for coming together to find solutions for every challenge faced by the country.

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Aatmanirbhar Bharat is about Both Quantity and Quality: PM



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has said that Aatmanirbhar Bharat is about quantity as well as quality. He was speaking on the occasion of National Metrology Conclave 2021 "Our aim is not to merely flood global markets with Indian products, we want to win people's hearts. We want Indian products to have high global demand and acceptance" the Prime Minister said. PM Modi said that over the decades, India was dependent on foreign standards for quality and measurement. But now India's pace,

progress, rise, image, and strength of India will be decided by our own standards. He stated that the goal to achieve a self-reliant India consists of quantity as well as quality. He stressed to ensure that Made in India products not only meet global demand but also get global acceptance. "We have to strengthen Brand India stronger on the pillars of quality and credibility," Shri Modi said.

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PM Calls Upon the Scientific Community to Strengthen Value Creation Cycle in Science, Technology and Industry

Speaking on the occasion of National Metrology Conclave 2021 on 4 January, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi exhorted the scientific community to promote value-creation cycle of science to mass creation. He pointed out, historically, any country has progressed in direct correlation to its effort to promote science. He termed this 'value creation cycle' of Science, Technology and Industry. Explaining further, PM Modi said that a scientific invention creates a technology and technology leads to industry development. The industry, in turn, invests further in science for new research. This cycle keeps on taking us in the direction of new possibilities. This value creation cycle of science to mass-creation has become all the more important in today's world when the country is moving forward with the goal of Aatmanirbhar India, Shri Modi said.



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PM Dedicates Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline to the Nation

On 5 January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline to the Nation through a video conference. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said rapid expansion of Gas based economy is a must to achieve self-reliant India and cited this as the reason behind Government's push for 'One Nation One Gas Grid'. He said that the development of the coastal areas and welfare of hardworking fishermen is one of the important priorities of the Government. He outlined a multi-pronged plan for coastal area development comprising transforming the blue economy, improvement of coastal infrastructure and protecting the marine ecosystem. He said the Blue Economy is going to be an important source of Aatamnirbhar India. Ports and coastal roads are being connected with a focus on multi-modal connectivity. We are working with an aim to turn our coastal region into a role model of ease of living and ease of doing business, said the Prime Minister.



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PM Dedicates Rewari - Madar Section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor to the Nation



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 306 km long Rewari - Madar section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) on 7 January through video conference. He also flagged off the Double Stack Long Haul Container Train on this route. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said Maha Yagna to modernize the country's infrastructure has gained a new momentum today. He added that so many launches were done even during this in this period of Corona to modernize the country. He said with the flag off of the first double stacked container freight train from New Ateli in Haryana to New Kishanganj in Rajasthan, India has joined the select nations in the world. He lauded the efforts of the engineers and their team for this proud achievement. He said this dedicated freight corridor will bring new opportunities and new hopes for everyone especially farmers, entrepreneurs and merchants of Rajasthan. He said the dedicated freight corridor is not only the route for modern freight trains but also a corridor for rapid development of the country.

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Prime Minister Exhorts Youth to Contribute Selflessly and Constructively in Politics



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called upon the youth of the country to contribute selflessly and constructively in politics. Speaking at the valedictory function of the second National Youth Parliament Festival on 12 January, PM remarked that politics is a big medium to bring about meaningful change and like every other field, presence of youth is critical in politics also. He assured the youth that today, honest people are getting the opportunity to serve, changing the old notion of politics as a site of unscrupulous activities. Today Honesty and performance have become the need of the hour. PM Modi exhorted the youth to come into politics as their entry will ensure the end of dynasty politics. "It is imperative for saving our democracy that you join politics. You have a great guide in Swami Vivekananda and if, with his inspiration, our youth joins politics, country will be strengthened", PM Modi said.

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UN Security Council Open Debate on International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism

On 12 January, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar addressed UN Security Council Open Debate chaired by Tunisia on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. He proposed an 8-point Plan of Action for effectively countering terrorism and called on international community to commit to goal of zero tolerance for terrorism. Terrorism continued to be the gravest threat to mankind and attacked the "very foundations of humanity", he said, warning against attempts to "justify terrorism" or "glorify terrorists". Coming out strongly against "double standards," Jaishankar said "terrorists are terrorists... there is no good or bad distinction". During his address, he also sought greater transparency and warned against placing blocks on listing and delisting requests without reason.



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16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention

16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention was held virtually on 9 January 2021 with the theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat", recognizing the important role being played by the overseas Indian diaspora in making a New India. Embassy of India in Hanoi celebrated the event with a livestream of the Convention that included addresses by Indian and foreign leaders and participants from the Indian diaspora from across the world. Our heartfelt thanks to a wide cross-section of the Indian community members in Vietnam who joined us at the Embassy premises to celebrate this special day.



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Inauguration of Army Software Park in Nha Trang



The new building of the Army Software Park at the Tele-Communications University of Vietnam of the Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam was inaugurated on 12 January 2021 in Nha Trang by Deputy Defence Minister of Vietnam, Sr. Lt. Gen. Nguyễn Chi Vinh in the presence of Ambassador Pranay Verma. Defence Secretary of India, Dr. Ajay Kumar joined the event online and delivered the keynote address. The Army Software Park is a modern symbol of long-standing Defence Partnership between India and Vietnam and will play an important role in IT and language training for Defence forces of Vietnam. The inaugural ceremony was followed by the 13th round of India-Vietnam Vice-Ministerial Defence Policy Dialogue, held on-line between India's Defence Secretary and Vietnam's Deputy Defence Minister.

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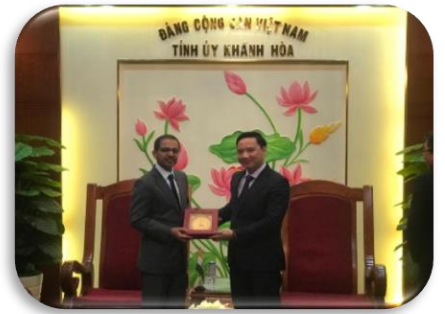
World Hindi Day



World Hindi Day is organized every year on 10 January. On this occasion, the Indian Embassy organized a program in which friends from Vietnam and Indian community presented the program in Hindi and expressed their interest and feelings towards the Hindi language. Ambassador Shri Pranay Verma read out the message of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on World Hindi Day.

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Ambassador's Visit to Khanh Hoa Province- 12 January 2021



As part of Mission's outreach to Vietnamese Provinces, Ambassador Pranay Verma visited Khanh Hoa province in south-central Vietnam on 12 January 2021 and met the Party Secretary of the province, H.E. Nguyễn Khắc Dinh in Nha Trang. They discussed ways to promote cooperation between Khanh Hoa province and Indian states in wide-ranging areas, including trade and economy, development infrastructure, capacity building, culture & tourism.

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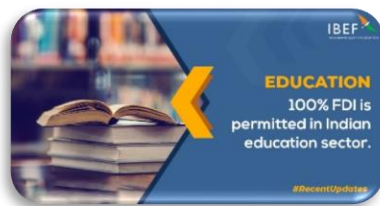
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Education Industry



India's education sector offers a great opportunity with approximately 29% of India's population in the age group of 0 to 14 years. Education sector in India is expected to reach US\$ 180 billion in FY20. India was ranked 34 among the 100 countries in English Proficiency Index 2019. Increasing internet penetration is expected to help in education delivery. As of December 2019, internet penetration in India reached 54.29%. Education sector in India remains to be a strategic priority for the Government. The Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the education sector through the automatic route since 2002. The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi approved the National Education Policy 2020, making way for large scale, transformational reforms in both school and higher education sectors. The policy is built on foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, and is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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Agra Fort: Imposing Fort on the Banks of the River Yamuna

A massive red-sandstone fort located on the banks of River Yamuna was built under the commission of Emperor Akbar in 1565 and was further built by his grandson Shah Jahan. The fort, semicircular on plan, is surrounded by a 21.4 m high fortification wall. Agra Fort is widely considered to be a masterpiece of planning, design and construction. Some of its other internal structures include the stunning Moti Masjid, Diwan-i-Khas (hall of private audience) and Diwan-i-Aam (hall of public audience), once home to the legendary Peacock Throne. There are two prominent mosques inside the fort - Nagina Masjid was built by Shah Jahan as a private mosque for the ladies of the court and Mina Masjid is believed to have been built by him solely for his own use.



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