



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI**

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

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PM Inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit 2021



On 10 February, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated virtual World Sustainable Development Summit 2021. The theme of the Summit was 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'. Addressing the event, PM said that two things will define how the progress journey of humanity will unfold in the times to come- first is the health of our people and second is the health of our planet, both are inter-linked. He emphasized on climate justice for fighting against climate change. PM further said that India's intent is supported by concrete action. Powered by spirited public efforts, India is on track to exceed its commitments and targets from Paris Agreement. India is committed to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 percent from 2005 levels. He also shared that India is well on track to setting up 450 giga watts of Renewable Energy generating capacity by 2030.

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Key Highlights of Union Budget 2021-22



Presenting the first ever digital Union Budget, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman stated that India's fight against COVID-19 continues into 2021 and that this moment in history, when the political, economic, and strategic relations in the post-COVID world are changing, is the dawn of a new era – one in which India is well-poised to truly be the land of promise and hope. Laying a vision for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, she said that this is an expression of 1.3 billion Indians who have full confidence in their capabilities and skills. She said that Budget proposals will further strengthen the commitment of Nation First, Doubling Farmer's Income, Strong Infrastructure, Healthy India, Good Governance, Opportunities for youth, Education for All, Women Empowerment, and Inclusive Development among others.

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PM Modi Hands Over Highly Advanced Arjun Main Battle Tank MK-1A to Army

On 14 February, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi handed over indigenously developed Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Army at a function in Chennai. Designed, developed, and manufactured by India's Defence Research and Development Organizations' Combat Vehicle Research and Development Establishment in partnership with fifteen academic institutions, eight labs and several MSMEs, Arjun Tank (MK-1A) is regarded as world-class military equipment. The battle tank has several major and user driven upgrades, including increased mobility and fighting capabilities, thereby making it a top-grade military hardware. Terming Tamil Nadu as the tank manufacturing hub of India, the Prime Minister said that India will continue working to make its armed forces one of the most modern forces in the world.

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President Kovind: Today, India is Not Just a Market, but is also a Land of Immense Opportunities for the Whole World, Including in the Defence Sector



While addressing the valedictory function of the Aero India-21 in Bengaluru on 5 February, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind noted "Today, India is not just a market, but is also a land of immense opportunities for the whole world, including in the defence sector". The President said that Aero India 2021 is a living proof of India's ever-growing strength in the defence and aerospace sectors at the global level. The event has exhibited that the global confidence in India's capabilities is growing steadily. President Kovind noted that the reforms initiated in India in the last six years offer unprecedented opportunities to investors and private companies in the defence and aerospace sectors.

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1st ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021



The inaugural ASEAN-India Hackathon organised by the India's Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs from 1-4 February with more than 300 students, mentors, and officials participating from 10 ASEAN countries and India. The ASEAN-India Hackathon-2021 aimed at enhancing the cooperation between India and ASEAN countries in science, tech, and education. All ASEAN countries participated in this unique initiative of providing innovative solutions to overcome the challenges under two broad themes of Blue Economy and Education. The Hackathon emanated from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement at the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok in November 2019.

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Reimagining Diplomacy in the Post-COVID World: An Indian Perspective

In an article published in the international news magazine NEWSWEEK, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar said that post-COVID world will be more multi-polar, pluralistic, and rebalanced, and India, with its experiences, will help make a difference. He highlighted challenges posed by pandemic, climate change and terrorism as the defining features of deeper indivisibility of our existence. He underlined the leading role being played by India in countering each of these challenges. In the context of COVID-19, Dr. Jaishankar highlighted India's proactive contributions to the global well-being as the 'Pharmacy of the World'.



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India is a leader in climate action: External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar

Reckoning climate change as a key global challenge, External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar said that India is a leader in climate action. Speaking at the World Sustainable Development Summit - High Level Round Table on Rebooting Green Growth on 11 February organized by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), EAM argued that there was a need for evolving a comprehensive approach which covers education to values and from lifestyle to developmental philosophy. Noting that among G-20 nations, India is on track to meet its climate change mitigation commitments the External Affairs Minister submitted that India has the fastest-growing solar energy programme in the world.



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Foreign Secretary Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla: Moving Beyond Paris, India Steps Up Its Climate Ambitions



Foreign Secretary Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that India aims to be 'a leader in thought and action on climate'. He said that five years after the Paris Agreement, India is among the few developing countries that are not only meeting their "green" targets but are aspiring to more ambitious climate goals. He further said that India recognizes that climate change cannot be fought in silos. It requires an integrated, comprehensive, and holistic approach as well as innovation and adoption of new and sustainable technologies. Conscious of these imperatives, India has mainstreamed climate in its national developmental and industrial strategies. The combination of national action and responsible international citizenship makes India unique amongst developing countries and is placing it on the path to realise its ambitions to be a leader in thought and action on climate.

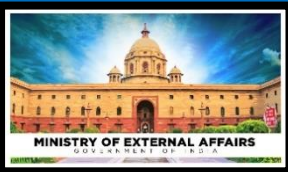
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India's Vaccine Diplomacy Garnering Praise from Global Media

Around a month after India started sending indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries under grant assistance programme named "Vaccine Maitri", the global media has offered lavish praise for India. India had started its Vaccine Maitri programme on 20 January with first batches of COVID-19 vaccine consignment sent to Bhutan and the Maldives. The Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine factory, churns out the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine at a daily rate of about 2.5 million doses. That pace has allowed India to begin to dole out doses free of charge to neighbours. The vaccine push bolsters India's credibility as a reliable crisis-responder and solutions provider to these neighbouring countries.



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Made in India Micro Blogging Site "Koo" Gains Momentum



Made in India micro blogging site Koo has gained momentum. Since its launch in November 2019, many Indians have joined this Made in India app. The app has also won the Atma Nirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge Award. It is available in English as well as several Indian languages. It has a word limit of 400 characters and also has the feature of sharing on WhatsApp and other social media platforms. Like Koo, several other Indian apps are now available for the ease of the domestic users furthering the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign. It is an example of the entrepreneurship and the innovative spirit of New India.

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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

New India- A Hub for Mineral Resources



Richly endowed with natural resources, India produces as many as 95 minerals. India is the second largest coal and crude steel producer as well as the fourth largest iron ore producer in the world. India has large reserves of Iron ore, Bauxite, Chromium, Manganese ore, Baryte, Rare earth and Mineral salts. With the launch of the National Mineral Policy 2019, India presents a major opportunity for investors. The Metals and Mining sector in India is expected to witness a major reform in the next few years, owing to reforms such as Make in India Campaign, Smart Cities, Rural Electrification, and a focus on building renewable energy projects under the National Electricity Policy as well as the rise in infrastructure development.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Ajanta Caves- 2nd-century Epicentre of Buddhist Art & Culture

Located about 107 km from Aurangabad, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ajanta Caves are a famous cluster of 32 Buddhist caves. The rock-hewn caves at Ajanta are either chaityas (shrine), chapels or prayer halls, or viharas (monasteries) or residential cells. Ajanta displays the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art from the Kushana period; the Sarnath school of art from the Gupta period; and the Amaravati school of art from the late Satavahana and Ikshvaku periods. The Ajanta paintings recount the life of Lord Buddha, including his previous earthly experiences and the Jataka tales.



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EMBASSY'S CORNER

India Leads the Global Vaccination Campaign Against COVID-19: Ambassador

In an Op-Ed published by Viet Nam News and VTC News, Ambassador Pranay Verma underlined India's capabilities in the pharmaceutical sector, showcased by India's roll out of the world's Largest Vaccine Drive with two 'Made in India' vaccines and the country's leading role in supply of essential medicines to nearly 150 countries in the global fight against COVID-19. Ambassador highlighted that India's vaccination drive against COVID-19 reaffirms Prime Minister Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, or 'self-reliant India', that underlines India's efforts to build capacities at home so as to become a more effective partner for the global community.



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India-Vietnam Investment Seminar



At an India-Vietnam Investment Seminar held in Ho Chi Minh City on 22 January 2021, Ambassador Pranay Verma urged investors from both India and Vietnam to explore new areas and opportunities to promote bilateral trade and investment, which has a huge untapped potential. The seminar focused on four sectors: energy, infrastructure, IT and pharmaceuticals. In his remarks, Ambassador underlined India's capabilities in the pharmaceutical sector, showcased by India's roll out of the world's #LargestVaccineDrive with two

'Made in India' vaccines and the country's leading role in supply of essential medicines to nearly 150 countries in the global fight against COVID-19.

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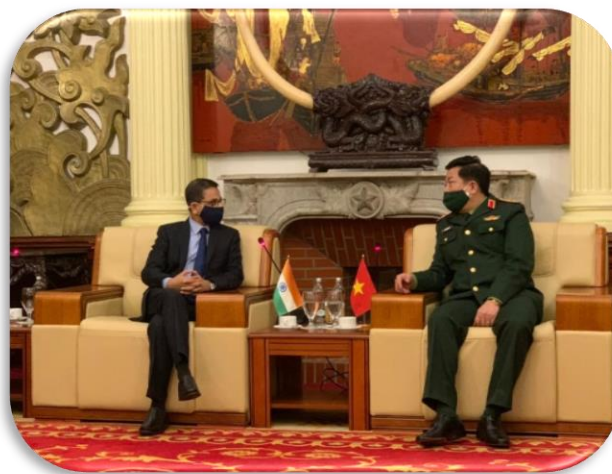
Ambassador Meets the Commander of Vietnam Coast Guard

Ambassador Pranay Verma met the Commander of Vietnam Coast Guard Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Son on 3 February 2021 and exchanged views on on-going and upcoming bilateral cooperation. Indian Coast Guard and Vietnam Coast Guard maintain regular institutionalised exchanges, which include High Level Meetings, exchange visits by Coast Guard vessels and joint exercises. Most recently, the 4th edition of the High-Level Meeting between the heads of the two Coast Guards was held on-line on 30 December 2020. Both sides also closely cooperate in multilateral platforms such as HACGAM CCGS and ReCAPP-ISC.



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Ambassador Meets the Director General of the General Department of Defence Industries of Vietnam



Ambassador Pranay Verma met the Director General of the General Department of Defence Industries of Vietnam, Lt. Gen. Trang Hong Minh on 4 February 2021 and exchanged views on defence industry cooperation between India and Vietnam. Defence industry cooperation is an important part of India-Vietnam Defence Partnership. Government of India has extended defence credit lines to Vietnam as part of efforts to enhance Defence Industrial Cooperation. During the recently held Virtual Summit between the Prime Ministers of the two

countries, both sides also signed an implementing arrangement for defence industry cooperation that would provide an institutionalised framework for future partnership in this important area of their defence relations.

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