



**EMBASSY OF INDIA
HANOI**

INDIA NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2021

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Prime Minister Inaugurates Maritime India Summit 2021



On 2 March, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Second Edition of the Maritime India Summit (MIS) organised by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India. The event was attended by the stakeholders in the maritime sector from across the world. While speaking the summit, Prime Minister invited the world to come to India and be a part of India's growth trajectory. India is very serious about growing in the maritime sector and emerging as a leading Blue Economy of the world. Through the focus areas of upgradation of infrastructure, boosting reform journey, India aims to strengthen the vision of Aatamnirbhar Bharat, Prime Minister further said.

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India's GDP Could Grow by 12.6% in 2022: OECD Report



The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has raised the projection for India's economic growth rate by 4.7 percentage points at 12.6 per cent for 2021-22, which will be the fastest in the world, followed by China at 7.8% growth. That would enable India to retain its earlier tag of the fastest growing large economy in the world. In its interim report on economic outlook, OECD said, activity moved above pre-pandemic levels in India, helped by strong fiscal and quasi-fiscal measures and a recovery in manufacturing and construction. Earlier, IMF also forecasted 11.5% growth for India, making the country the only major economy of the world to register a double-digit growth this year amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

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CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award 2021



On 5 March, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was conferred with the Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award by Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) for his commitment to expanding India's leadership in sustainable development to meet the country's, and the world's, future energy needs. While accepting the award, Prime Minister said "It is with great humility that I accept the CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award. I dedicate this award to the people of our great Motherland, India. I dedicate this award to the glorious tradition of our land that has shown the way when it comes to caring for the environment." Prime Minister further highlighted the steps taken by India to address the issue of climate change and attaining the target of achieving clean fuel.

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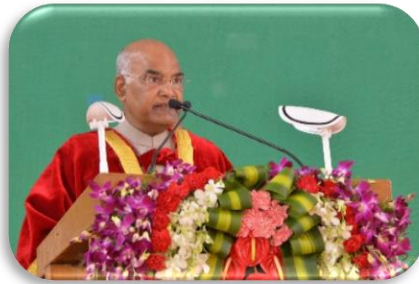


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President: We All have the Solemn Responsibility to do Our Part in Making India Shine on the World Stage



We all have the solemn responsibility to do our part in making India shine on the world stage, said President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind while addressing the 16th annual convocation of the Thiruvalluvar University in Vellore on 10 March. President Kovind said that it is a matter of great satisfaction that India's higher education system has expanded to reach out to serve the rural and marginalised sections. In the process, it has become the third largest education system in the world. However, there is no room for complacency, and we have to catch up for the lost time if we aspire to scale greater heights.

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Vice President: Be Ready to Combat New and Emerging Diseases

While virtually addressing the Valedictory and Award Session of Global Bio India-2021 on 3 March, Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu called upon scientists and researchers to be always ready to combat new and emerging diseases as COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to be ever vigilant to tackle an outbreak of sudden and unforeseen epidemics and pandemics. VP said that Biotechnology has emerged as the backbone of various industrial sectors in recent times. Built on four core beliefs of entrepreneurship, innovation, development of local talent, and demonstrating high value-based care, India is in a unique position to transition from the biotech industry to a bioeconomy, he added.



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Make in India, Make for the world: Prime Minister

Addressing a webinar on Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and International Trade and NITI Aayog through video conference on 5 March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the industry to join and take advantage of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes of the central government and stressed on the need to take a big leap, increase the speed and scale to boost manufacturing. PM said that the focus of the industry should be on creating best quality goods for the country and the world. He urged the industry to innovate according to the needs of the fast-changing world, increase our participation in R&D, upgrade the manpower skills and use of new technology.



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Vice President: 'Resilience, Research and Reinvention' Helped India Become a Torchbearer in Global Fight against Covid-19 Pandemic



Addressing the first Graduation Day ceremony of ESIC Medical College (Faridabad) held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on 7 March, Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said that 'resilience, research and reinvention' helped India become a torchbearer in the global fight against Covid-19 pandemic. VP also applauded the untiring efforts and ingenuity of Indian researchers and scientists for finding technological solutions to the challenges thrown by the pandemic. Vice President credited the timely and decisive measures by our doctors, scientists and policymakers for containing the spread of the virus.

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Chabahar Port is Crucial for Trade in Central Asia: External Affairs Minister



Speaking on the occasion of Chabahar Day on 4 March at the Maritime India Summit 2021, External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar said that the shift in the fulcrum of global economic growth towards Asia is creating unprecedented opportunities for connectivity in the region. There is a huge infrastructure deficit in the region which needs to be met to fulfill the growing aspirations of our peoples, Dr. Jaishankar said. EAM further noted that the Chabahar port has not only emerged as a commercial transit hub for the region but also facilitated the delivery of humanitarian assistance, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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India Emerges as One of the Largest FDI Destinations



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. Continuing the path of FDI liberalization and simplification, Government has carried out FDI reforms across various sectors. 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.

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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

Shipping Industry & Ports in India

According to the Ministry of Shipping, around 95% of India's trading by volume and 70% by value is done through maritime transport. India has 12 major and 205 notified minor and intermediate ports. The ports and shipping industry play a vital role in sustaining growth in the country's trade and commerce. India is the sixteenth largest maritime country in the world with a coastline of about 7,517 kms. The Government plays an important role in supporting the ports sector. It has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of up to 100% under the automatic route for port and harbour construction and maintenance projects.



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INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

Media: The Global Entertainer

India is the largest newspaper circulation market and Second largest TV market globally. In terms of tickets sold and number of films made, India is the world's largest film industry. India has a large broadcasting and distribution industry, comprising approximately 900 satellite TV channels, 6,000 Multi-system operators, around 60,000 local cable operators, 7 DTH operators and few IPTV service providers. It has 5th largest media and entertainment market in the world. India has 118,239 registered publications (newspapers and periodicals), close to 2,500 multiplexes and more than 570 mn Internet users – second largest base after China.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA

Varanasi: City of Light



One of the oldest living inhabitations of the world, the sacred city of Varanasi or Benaras, nestled on the banks of the holy Ganges river, has been attracting pilgrims for centuries. Celebrated author Mark Twain, who visited India in the last decade of the 19th century, described the city as "older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend." Believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva, Varanasi is among the seven sacred cities in the country. Centuries of history, art and tradition have conflated to add colourful layers to Varanasi's aura, which is most spectacularly evident at its ghats (stepped banks of a river). An abode of travellers in search of holiness and divine providence, the ghats of the Ganges are the highlight of the spiritual scene of Varanasi. In recent years, the city has turned into a purveyor of philosophy, yoga, the ancient medicinal science of Ayurveda, and astrology.

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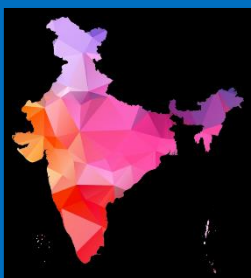
India: Celebration of Diverse Beliefs



India is its billion people. And it is safe to say that these people define what spirituality in India is. The most prominent religions in the country are Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism. Apart from these there are several other schools of thoughts. The country is filled with many spiritual destinations which should not be missed by anyone looking for the true Indian experience. These are open and welcome

to everyone. From opulent temples and mosques to marvellous churches, resplendent gurudwaras and serene monasteries, India is the home of holiness.

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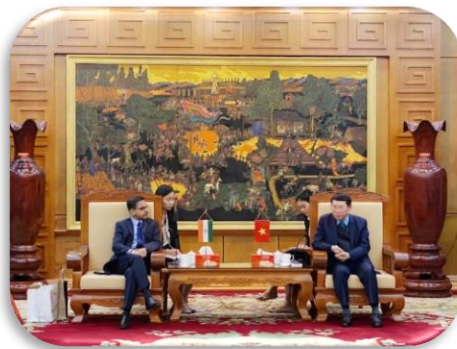
India-Vietnam Defence Partnership



As part of continued senior-level engagement to promote India-Vietnam Defence partnership, General Manoj Mukund Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Army Staff of India and Lt Gen Nguyen Van Nghia, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Vietnam People's Army held a telephone call on 09th March 2021. Bilateral Defence Cooperation issues with special emphasis on Army to Army cooperation were discussed during the telephone call. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the present trajectory of bilateral Army cooperation and provided guidance for enhancing engagements in a practical and mutually beneficial manner.

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Ambassador Visits Bac Giang Province



At the invitation of the Chairman of People's Committee of Bac Giang, H.E. Mr. Lê Anh Dương, Ambassador Pranay Verma visited Bac Giang province on 2 March 2021 to explore new opportunities in trade and investment as well as development partnership and cultural exchanges with the province. Ambassador, accompanied by Chairman Dương, also visited the famed Ha pagoda in Tay Yen Tu — one of the main seats of Buddhism in Vietnam established by the King-Monk Trần Nhân Tông in 13th century CE — where they planted together a holy Banyan tree as a symbol of India-Vietnam friendship. At the tree-planting ceremony, Ambassador highlighted the shared Buddhist heritage as an important foundation of India-Vietnam cultural and civilizational ties and people-to-people connection.

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USI-IDIR Webinar on Indo-Pacific



Ambassador Pranay Verma was invited to deliver a keynote address at an online webinar on "Geopolitics and Security Dynamics in the Indo-Pacific Region" jointly hosted by the United Service Institution of India and the Institute of Defence International Relations (IDIR) of Vietnam on 4 March 2021. He spoke about India's Indo-Pacific Vision and highlighted the opportunities for collaboration and partnership towards security and growth for all in the region under India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) enunciated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok in November 2019. Ambassador noted that IPOI's convergences with ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) provided a practical basis to reinforce cooperation between India and Vietnam in the Indo-Pacific region.

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